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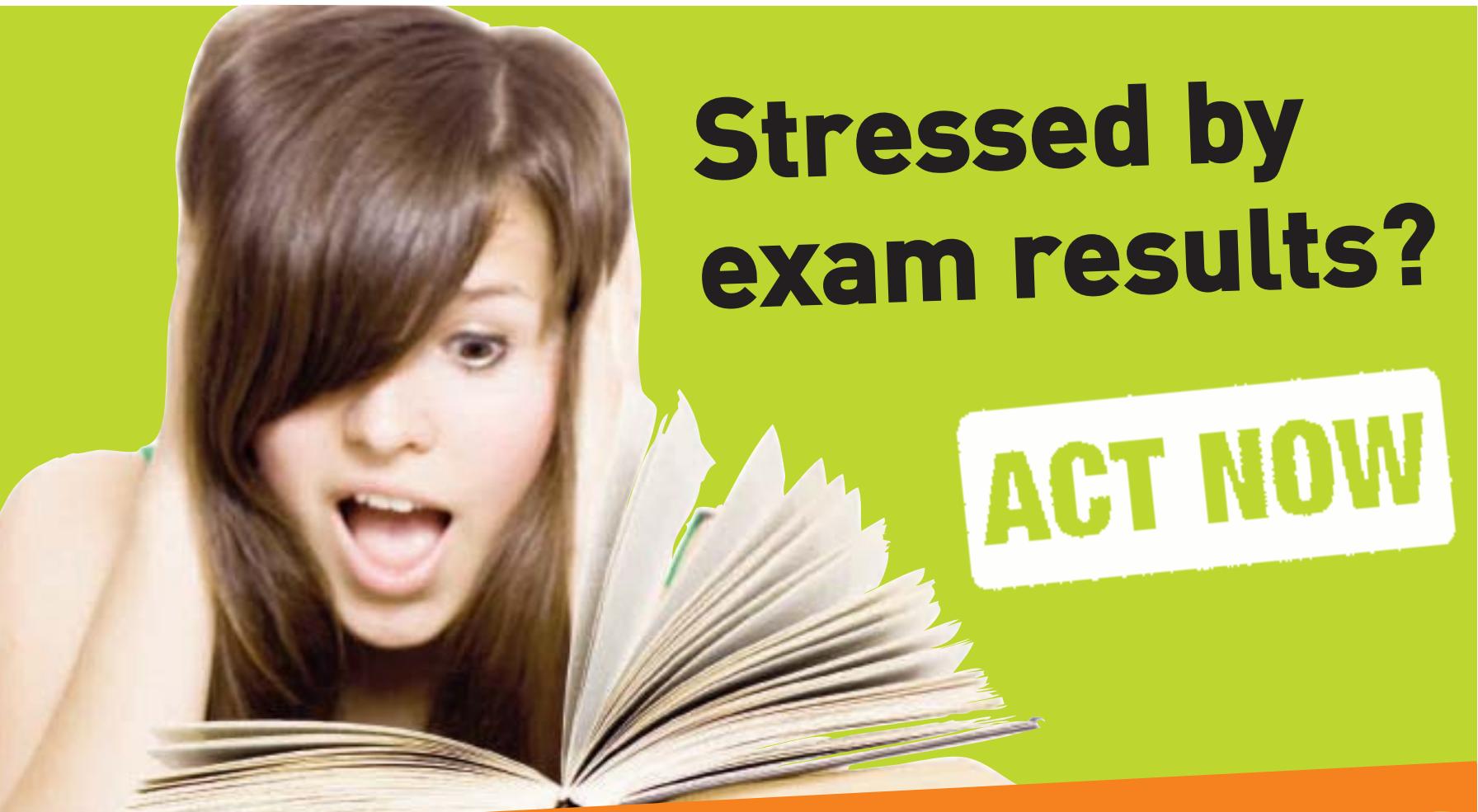
# yoursandwich

THE NEWSPAPER FOR SANDWICH, ASH & SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 22

Available from Wednesday,  
August 19, 2009



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# FESTIVAL GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS

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Learn about Sandwich's twinning arrangements with Ronse in Belgium. Search 'Sandwich'

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SCULPTURES: The Secret Gardens of Sandwich will play host to some 35 contemporary stone sculptures during the festival

Picture THE SALUTATION 2009

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Sandwich Festival starts this weekend with plenty to offer visitors and locals alike, including music, drama, sports, food and drink and an appearance by a chess grandmaster.

On Sunday a 10k road race and a 6k fun run set off from The Quay, while music is the theme for the following day.

St Bart's Chapel is hosting an event at 11am, which is free, while in the evening Music in the Garden is the name of a show being put on by the Becker Palm Court Trio in Manwood Court – one of the town's many hidden beauty spots.

Hercules Wine Warehouse is holding a tasting on Tuesday at 6pm, while on Wednesday St Clement's Church is the venue for a discussion of author Mary Berg's work, Norman Churches in the Canterbury Diocese. Admission costs £3.

Chess grandmaster John Emms will be playing in a simultaneous tournament in the Jury Room at the Guildhall the same evening, and the film Genevieve will be shown at the Empire Cinema at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be bought in advance for these events at the Tourist Information Centre.

Events set for the following week include garden tours, a craft market and a circus workshop.

Open days will also be held at the White Mill Heritage Centre and the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory.

A firework display will provide the climax to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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**1** Julie Maddocks visits St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury to see the Screen on the Green open-air cinema. Search 'Screen'



**2** Two servicemen injured in Afghanistan compete in a 22-mile relay swim across the Channel. Search 'Channel'



**3** Broadstairs Folk Week brought vast crowds of families and music-lovers to the town. Search 'Folk'

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**GREAT OUTDOORS:** Enjoy glorious views from your luxurious heated tipi at St Margarets

# Glamp it up in a splendid tipi

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A GLAMOROUS form of camping has hit the White Cliffs of Dover, spelling an end to communal toilets, sleeping-bags and muddy wellies.

Kent hotelier Gavin Oakley has introduced "glamping" to Wallett's Court Country House Hotel in St Margarets, where guests can enjoy the great outdoors without the hassles of regular camping.

A giant tipi boasting a queen-sized bed, comfy seats and soft furnishings has been erected in the grounds of the hotel.

The tipi also comes with heating, electric lighting and a wooden floor, plus an outdoor fire-pit for the authentic camping feel.

Owner Mr Oakley said the idea had gone down a storm, with bookings and enquiries already flying in.

"We were looking for a quirky and unusual way to make better use of our landscaped gardens and thought the tipi was perfect," he said.

"It gives people the chance to spend the night under canvas in beautiful

surroundings without giving up their creature comforts.

"It's the best of both worlds. The tipi's a lot bigger than you might imagine – 18ft in diameter – and is really very cosy."

Guests can use the hotel's spa facilities during their stay, as well as the tennis courts and croquet lawn.

And queuing up for toilets should not be a problem, according to Mr Oakley, who said there were toilets open 24/7 exclusively for people staying in the tipi.

"We've also got wash-basin facilities just a few metres away, plus showers in the spa which are available from 6.30am to 9pm," he said.

The new form of camping has proved so popular that Mr Oakley is already planning to put up at least one more tipi next summer.

A special introductory offer on tipi breaks is running until the end of September, with a one-night stay, including full English breakfast in the conservatory and full use of leisure facilities, for £49.50 per person based on two sharing.

For further information, or to book a stay in the tipi, phone 01304 852424 or email [mail@wallettscourt.com](mailto:mail@wallettscourt.com); for more information about the hotel, see [www.wallettscourt.com](http://www.wallettscourt.com).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Museum hosts free summer fun for all

DOVER Museum is holding two family days over the summer holidays.

On Tuesday, August 25, from 10am-4.30pm, visitors can make seaside mobiles from a variety of materials available.

On Wednesday, August 26, from 10am-4.30pm, parents and children can try a variety of games, from tiddly-winks to snakes and ladders.

Admission to the museum is free for Dover district residents and there is no extra charge for the activities.

Proof of address is required for free entry.

### Leave car behind for cheap crossings

FOOT passengers travelling with P&O Ferries can cross the Channel for £2 return.

Day-trippers travelling between Dover and Calais midweek can get to France for £2 return per person, £3 on Sundays and £6 on Saturdays during the summer period.

A shuttle bus is also available, taking foot passengers to the town centre for £1 a ticket.

To book, visit [www.POferries.com](http://www.POferries.com) and type 'summerfootpassenger' into the code box, or phone 08716 646464. The offer runs until the end of September.

### Artist goes west to show off her work

AN ARTIST from Dover has been invited to show off her work at an exhibition in Exeter.

Clare Smith from the Dover Arts Development will join fellow MA students from St Martin's College of Art and Design and graffiti artists from Exeter.

The display at the Polytek runs from August 30 to September 13.

For more information about Dover Arts Development, you can visit [www.dadonline.eu](http://www.dadonline.eu). Information about the exhibition can be found at [www.thelazysusan.net](http://www.thelazysusan.net).

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# Helicopter called after riot erupts on estate

■ BY MARIKE COX

A DRUNKEN riot involving some 20 youngsters broke out on Dover's Buckland estate at the weekend.

Police patrols and the Kent and Essex police helicopter were called in when a crowd of 15- to 20-year-olds became aggressive after three arrests were made for an alleged attempted burglary.

Officers had gone to a hairdressing salon in Sheridan Road after reports of an incident on Friday night and arrested three males, two of whom were later released without charge.

But as police dealt with the arrests a crowd of about 20 people gathered and became aggressive and rowdy.

Additional units were called in as police attempted to calm the situation and a helicopter was scrambled to try to disperse the group.

One eyewitness, who lives at The Linces, said he was shocked by the behaviour of the crowd.

"You don't expect to see this happening on your front doorstep," he said.

"These weren't young kids – most of them were old enough to know better. I don't know what started it, but I bet it was alcohol. It's not very nice to walk out of your house and be faced with something like that."

"There are elderly people around here who found it very frightening."

After officers took the alleged offenders away, the helicopter flew overhead to try to move on the rest of the group.

A police spokesman said: "Police are investigat-



**SCRAMBLED:** The Kent and Essex police helicopter was called in to try to move on the rowdy group on the estate

ing the incident and are considering the link to alcohol that may have fuelled the bad behaviour."

A large number of residents watched the incident and police are asking witnesses to come forward with information about those involved or about underage alcohol sales.

Anyone with information is asked to phone neighbourhood officer PCSO James Hockless on 0777 2226040, or, alternatively, call Kent

Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

- A 15-year-old boy has been charged with public order offences and bailed to appear at Folkestone Youth Court, while a youth aged 16 was fined £80.

- Kieran Miles, 18, of Parfitt Way, has been charged with possession of an offensive weapon, drunk and disorderly behaviour and possession of cannabis.

## Event benefits local charities

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the week's events and this will be held on Monday, 31 August, after an afternoon and evening jazz concert at Grazen Salts.

One of the highlights be at The Secret Gardens of Sandwich – the gardens of The Salutation stately home – where some 35 contemporary stone sculptures will be hosted.

On Bank Holiday Monday, at 4.30pm, the duck race will be held along The Quay.

This is a charitable event hosted by the Rotary Club of Sandwich and is of great benefit to local causes. The organisers will be selling plastic ducks throughout the festival week to those who want to take part in the race.

The public can buy duck-race tickets at D J Jutson Ltd, Wyman Electricals Ltd and The Secret Gardens of Sandwich.

## Pair in pool fire

A MAN aged 43 and a girl of 12 were taken to hospital after they suffered burns when chemicals being used to clean a paddling-pool exploded.

Fire-fighters who attended the scene at Staple said the man was using the correct cleaning chemicals for a children's pop-up paddling pool but something went wrong and caused the blast, which happened on Friday.

## Flood risk report continues to delay work on hospital

A START date for Dover's community hospital has yet to be agreed as work continues on the flood risk report.

A meeting took place on Thursday between health officials to discuss the £20 million development which is to be built in Maison Dieu Road.

Last year, the decision to build the hospital mid-town was blighted when Peter Ware from the Environment Agency put in an objection to Dover District Council.

He stated that "given the flood risk, a proposed hospital would be an inappropriate use of the site."

The flood risk is being investigated by consultants Capita Symonds, the Environment Agency and Dover District Council.

This has delayed the start of work, which health chiefs had initially hoped would be in July this year.

A spokesman from East Kent Hospital's University NHS Trust (EKHUT) confirmed that a start date had not been set but said it expected a decision to be made soon.

"We're very close to a resolution, but at the moment we have no date," he said.

"It really depends on what the flood report throws up."

A spokesman from the Environment Agency said Capita Symonds was drawing up the report but was waiting for further information from EKHUT.

"It's difficult to say what the outcome will be until we receive the information," she said.

At a meeting of Kent County Council's health overview and scrutiny committee last year, Ann Sutton, chief executive of the Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust, said she hoped that work would start by July 2009, with completion in 2011.

She said the mid-town site was "most achievable" but five weeks later pictures emerged of flooding at the chosen site and plans were delayed.

Health bosses are still hopeful that work will begin soon.

## Scheme supports rental market

A NEW system has been put in place to help support tenants and landlords in the Dover district.

The Kent Landlord Accreditation Scheme looks to promote and acknowledge good standards in privately-rented accommodation.

Through the initiative, landlords can gain recognition for good service and will be offered an updated reference manual and discounted materials.

Tenants will benefit from knowing that if they rent from an accredited landlord, the property will be in good condition and the tenancy managed well.

Frederick Scales, Dover District Council cabinet member for economy, said it is a great way for tenants to have confidence in their landlords.

For more information on the scheme, phone the private sector housing department on 01304 872219 or visit [www.kentlas.org.uk](http://www.kentlas.org.uk).

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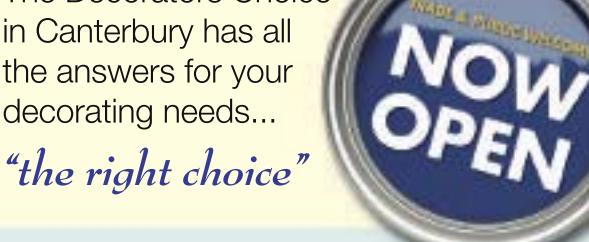
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## Police release efit after armed raid

POLICE have released efit images of an armed robber who raided a jewellery shop in Dover.



The incident happened at Simmonds Jewellers in Biggin Street, at about 4pm on Wednesday, July 22. A man armed with a black handgun demanded that staff hand over jewellery and cash.

The robber is white, aged 30-35, 6ft tall, thin and with dark-brown hair. He was wearing a beige or grey jacket with a hooded top, black three-quarter-length shorts with white piping and black trainers. Anyone with information is asked to phone police on 01303 850055 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Entertainment project goes live

A NEW venture has been set up in Dover to bring live entertainment opportunities to the town.

The project, called DoverLive, has been organised by district councillor John Goodwin and vice-chairman of the Dover Regatta Gill Gough.

On Saturday, September 5, at 7pm, they will be bringing comedian Richard Digance to Dover Town Hall for a night of nostalgic comedy.

He will be joined by Louise Orfila and Kent band Rags To Riches.

Tickets for the show are priced at £15 and £10 and are available by calling 01304 212277 or 07765 514 078.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Dover band Kingskin create merry music in Ashford. Search 'Kingskin'

HIGH-SPEED train services between Dover Priory and London are to start in less than a month – three months earlier than expected.

The announcement from Southeastern follows the success of preview runs between Ashford and St Pancras, which started in June.

Services will start from Dover Priory, Ramsgate, Canterbury West and Folkestone Central and West from Monday, September 7.

Passengers travelling on the new Javelin high-speed trains will be able to reach London from Dover in just over an hour, knocking 38 minutes off the current journey time.

Charles Horton, managing director of Southeastern, said the introduction of the service would help boost economy in the area.

"It means passengers from Dover will be able to reach London in just over an hour where it now takes nearly two hours, making it a town

■ BY MARIJKE COX

where you can now easily commute from," he said. "We hope the high speed services will act as a real catalyst for the economy in the region, but above all, what the high speed service provides is real choice for passengers."

There will be two morning peak services from Dover Priory via Folkestone Central and Folkestone West, returning in the evening at peak time.

Mr Horton said: "We always hoped we could expand the preview service and thanks to the success of the first weeks in Ashford we are now in a position to do this."

"We want as many people as possible to be able to experience the service before the full timetable is introduced in December."

Clr Nigel Collor, portfolio holder for access and property management at Dover District Council and Kent county councillor for Dover

Town, was instrumental in bringing the high-speed service to the district.

Initially, the Javelin trains were not going to stop in Dover, but following a tough battle, Cllr Collor achieved his goal.

He said: "To watch that first HS1 pull into Dover Priory will be amazing."

"It is something we fought very hard for. We're now continuing our fight to try and get the running time down to less than an hour – I know it can be done."

Prices for the high-speed service are £32.70 for a single journey, £55.10 for a return and £114.40 for a weekly ticket.

There will be supplements for existing ticket holders.

Mainline journey prices are £28.30 for single, £47 for return, £29.60 for off-peak return and £95 for a weekly ticket. There is currently no off-peak return price for the high-speed service.

More information can be found at [www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk).



YOU CAN VIEW THIS ENTIRE CLIP @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)

## MIGRANTS' MUTILATION

SOME would-be migrants are mutilating their fingerprints so that their true identities cannot be established, according to French sources.

They either burn their hands on a red-hot oven, coat them with chemicals, or remove layers of skin to prevent identification.

This means that data showing everything from criminal records to attempts to claim asylum will not appear on European-wide computers.

The details were revealed by Calais prefect Gerard Gavory who said that more than 50 asylum seekers questioned had their finger prints removed.

Scars caused by knives and razors were commonplace, or polyurethane glue or acid was used to remove fingerprints, but the most common method was to place fingers on a hot oven hob.

The European Union database Eurodac stores asylum-seekers' prints. If officials discover applicants have already had their case heard in another EU state, they are liable to be sent back.

Known criminals can also be turned back at the border using the method.



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# Mum has benefits cancelled week before major op

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A MOTHER of three from Dover says she will struggle to pay the bills after her incapacity benefits were stopped a week before she has major surgery.

Sandra Johnson, 45, from Buckland, told KOS Media that a doctor's note confirming she is unable to work due to a large lump on her ovary has been overlooked by the Department for Work and Pensions.

"I'm in constant pain and have been told that although the cyst may not be cancerous, it's not 100 per cent certain until it is removed and examined," she said.

"I've been having tests for nearly a year and waiting to have the operation for five months which has been very stressful, but now my ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) is going to be stopped I feel like I can't cope."

## Support

ESA, which replaced incapacity benefits in October 2008, is designed to give people support to improve their health and help them back to work.

Mrs Johnson said she has also suffered from depression most of life which was made worse 17 years ago when she tragically lost her baby boy.

Her recovery was set back when her mother and brother-in-law died within a few years of each other.

"I'm not ashamed of my depression but I think people treat you differently if you have it," she said.

"It's made me a stronger person over the years as I've had to fight to show people what it's really about."

"You struggle with everyday things, small or big, that can be so easy for those who do not suffer from it."

Mrs Johnson believes the problem with the new ESA system is that it is only designed for people with specific disabilities and doesn't cater for those undergoing major surgery.

"The application is a set of boxes that have to be ticked, but there is no box for people who are awaiting serious operations," she said.

"This means when they are recovering they



**STRAIN:** Sandra Johnson says stress from having her ESA withdrawn leaves her feeling unable to cope

have the added stress of having no financial support."

Mrs Johnson said in her own case she was sent a letter by the Department for Works and Pensions saying she was not entitled to anymore payments.

She said she had produced all her medical paperwork to support her claim.

"I have a doctor's note that lists problems that are making everyday life difficult for yet this has been overlooked by the person who sits behind a desk and ticks boxes," she said.

"I've found out GPs are not contacted for medical information when the assessments are carried out either."

"The past year has been very stressful as I've had a number of problems with the NHS with delays in my treatment without any information or reasons why."

"I feel so tired with all the writing of paperwork and running around to get help with this it has made my condition worse."

"I hate it that my children see my getting so upset all the time, it's enough they have the worry about me and the surgery."

A spokesperson from the Department for Works and Pensions said: "We are concerned to hear about this case and we will be contacting Mrs Johnson to try and sort it out."

Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser has also written to Mrs Johnson saying he will look into the matter.

# Dance event to celebrate build-up to the Olympics

SPECIAL celebrations are being held in Dover for the Cultural Olympiad.

The town is to become All Dancing Dover from 10pm on Saturday, August 29, with displays from dance groups and other entertainment.

The event is being held to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad and follows the success of last year's launch in Dover.

The Cultural Olympiad marks the four years leading up to the London Olympics 2012 and looks to bring different cultures and young people together.

Performances will be displayed on the big screen in Market Square and there

will be surprises throughout the day.

All Dancing Dover has been awarded an Inspire Mark, which means it is officially recognised as part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations across the country.

Sue Chandler, Dover District Council member for community, said it was a fantastic achievement for the area.

"We are delighted to receive this recognition," she said.

"This is a dance event with a difference and is an event that can involve the whole community and there is an element of this celebration that will appeal to everyone."

To get involved, visit [www.dover.gov.uk](http://www.dover.gov.uk).

yourdover

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Technical hitch at windfarm

SEVEN out of the 26 wind-turbines on Romney Marsh have been hit by technical problems – just a month after the site was opened.

Transformers at the base of the turbines have been removed and returned to Belgium, RWE npower renewables, which built the site, said in a statement.

It read: "All major work has been completed at Little Cheyne Court windfarm. However, there have been technical problems with some of the transformers.

"The problems with the transformers are not pertinent to wind-turbine technology but associated with the high-voltage circuit."

Replacement transformers are set to be delivered in mid-September and the site fully operational by mid-October.

The company said the remaining 19 turbines were running normally at the site, which was opened by Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband on Monday, July 13.

### Town has perfect climate

DYMCHURCH has been named as having one of the UK's best microclimates, sheltered from the damp and drizzle which has turned Britain's summer into a washout.

The weather at the seaside town has been compared to the south of France, with palm trees thriving and vines growing in gardens – TV weatherman Michael Fish has described it as a "meteorological Shangri-La".

National newspaper reports have highlighted Dymchurch as an example of those corners of the country where climate conditions are different to the area around them.

The phenomenon is thought to be caused by the surrounding hills.

### Beer, cider and all that jazz

A BEER and cider festival is being held at The Louis Armstrong pub in Dover.

It is running over the Bank Holiday weekend starting the evening of Friday, August 28.

There will be around 16 real ales on offer and four local ciders.

A number of bands will be performing, including Jumbo Gumbo on the Friday, Cowpats on the Saturday, the LA Music Club at 2pm on the Sunday and the Andy Maclean Jazz band from 8.30pm Sunday.

For more information call the Louis Armstrong pub on 01304 204759.

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Saturday 5th Mr Wonderful	Funtime - Autumn Variety	LND Wrestling - Cage Match
Friday 18th Mandy Winters - The Concert	Saturday 10th Derek Acorah	Sunday 27th Tha Adventures of Simple Simon
Saturday 19th Disco Inferno 13	Sunday 18th	<b>NOVEMBER 2009</b>
	Vienna Festival Ballet	Sunday 1st
	Wednesday 21st	Jimmy Carr Live
	Bowling for Soup	Saturday 7th
	Friday 23rd	The Specials - SOLD OUT
	Festival of Remembrance	Saturday 14th
		Circus of Horrors

A service charge may be applicable on certain shows - please check with the box office

### The Winter Gardens Centenary Appeal Fundraising Dinner

Appeal to provide funding for essential building work prior to our centenary in 2011

Wednesday 30th September

7pm for 7.45pm

£27.50 per head or £200.00 for a table of 8

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All courses run at our Ashford (Jemmett Road) campus.

**Pupils ending Year 11 are welcome to find out more/apply even if they are considering other offers.**

**For information on Engineering courses:**

Call 01233 655565 or 655587 email [john.hurley@southkent.ac.uk](mailto:john.hurley@southkent.ac.uk)  
visit drop in and see us at Ashford (Jemmett Road) campus



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This popular full-time one-year Level 2 course is equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grade A-C. The content is an ideal introduction to mechanical (e.g. high specification parts for cars), electronic (e.g. the science of circuit boards for mobile phones) and maintenance engineering. All 24 students taking this qualification passed this year.

### Meet two successful students who joined this course after Year 11:

Conor did well at school but he found it boring and wanted more freedom. He decided to try engineering after an interview at the College.

"I've really enjoyed my course as it has mechanical, electrical and maintenance aspects as well as key skills, so it has opened up a lot of options for future course and career choices. The tutors are really able to get the information across and always ask if you need help. You also have a pastoral tutor to support you. Mine, Wendy, was great. If you had any problems at College you could discuss them with her and she would help sort them out."

Conor adds:

"I liked the learning methods on this course because of the heavy emphasis on practical skills. You have to focus a lot and every detail is vital. I am now progressing onto the BTEC National Diploma in Engineering which is a 2-year course. I've made lots of friends here and I am really pleased that there will be 5 of my friends joining too."

After the National Diploma, Conor hopes to find employment working as an engineer on tower cranes or generators.



Joshua didn't enjoy school and much preferred doing things with his hands to academic studies. Joshua left with mostly Ds or Es in his GCSEs but had also done well on an introductory engineering course. From the age of 13 he has been helping and working for the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway.

"I asked the railway for a full-time job but was told I had to be 18 and also that I required broader engineering skills. I was not at all sure about College after my experience at school but was persuaded at interview to give it a go. So I started the course, found I liked the College and not only discovered aspects of engineering that were completely new to me such as milling, but also found the maintenance training really useful."

During the course Joshua was in a team of 3 who were awarded a "Vernier Caliper" (a valuable piece of measuring equipment) for good attendance, safety awareness and quality of work. This included milling and turning work to 0.1mm accuracy.

Joshua commented:

"I'm really pleased I did the course. I have a recognised engineering qualification covering mechanical and electronic engineering which I can use as a springboard for further qualifications in the future, and I leave the course with broader and more finely tuned skills which will help me enormously in my new job on the railway. The work involves workshop work, track maintenance, signal box work and eventually I get to drive a train."



There are 5 other college-based Engineering courses to choose from and a range of work-based learning opportunities.  
For more details ask for a young people's or adult guide or visit [www.southkent.ac.uk](http://www.southkent.ac.uk).

For information on all other courses offered by South Kent College  
Call 0845 2078220 email [courseinformation@southkent.ac.uk](mailto:courseinformation@southkent.ac.uk)  
visit [www.southkent.ac.uk](http://www.southkent.ac.uk) or drop in and see us.



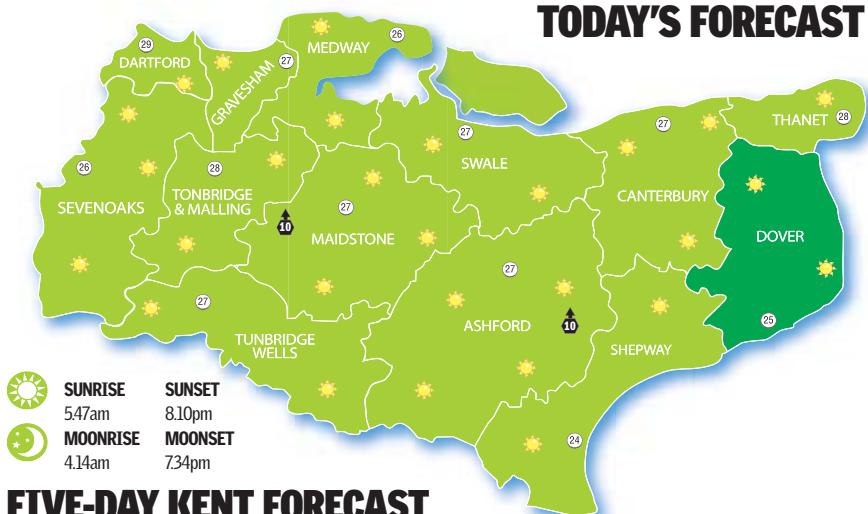
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DOVER - CALAIS - FRENCH PORTS

## TODAY'S FORECAST



## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
Ashford	23°C	27°C	22°C	20°C	20°C		Gravesend	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C
Canterbury	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C		Maidstone	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	20°C
Chatham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C		Ramsgate	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C
Dartford	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C		Rochester	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Dover	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C		Sevenoaks	23°C	26°C	20°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C		Sittingbourne	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Folkestone	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C		Tonbridge	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C
Gillingham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C		Tun Wells	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C

## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

<b>Chatham</b>	Saturday	2:53pm	6.5m
	Sunday	3:34pm	6.5m
<b>Dover</b>	Saturday	1:12pm	7.1m
	Sunday	1:52pm	7.1m
<b>Dungeness</b>	Saturday	1:11pm	8.2m
	Sunday	1:51pm	8.2m
<b>Ramsgate</b>	Saturday	1:42pm	5.4m
	Sunday	2:22pm	5.4m
<b>Sheerness</b>	Saturday	2:43pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:24pm	6.2m
<b>Whitstable</b>	Saturday	2:51pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:32pm	5.6m

## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

<b>Amsterdam</b>	21°C	<b>Madrid</b>	36°C
<b>Athens</b>	31°C	<b>New York</b>	32°C
<b>Barcelona</b>	30°C	<b>Paris</b>	23°C
<b>Beijing</b>	25°C	<b>Rome</b>	30°C
<b>Bombay</b>	30°C	<b>Sydney</b>	21°C
<b>Cape Town</b>	16°C	<b>Tenerife</b>	27°C
<b>Cardiff</b>	19°C	<b>Tokyo</b>	29°C
<b>Gibraltar</b>	27°C	<b>Vancouver</b>	20°C
<b>Hong Kong</b>	33°C	<b>Warsaw</b>	28°C
<b>Las Palmas</b>	27°C	<b>Wellington</b>	11°C

## Recovery plan to rescue ferry firm

BOSSES at struggling ferry firm SeaFrance have finalised a recovery plan for the company.

At a meeting last week it was decided the fleet of seven ships would be reduced to three and that 550 staff in France would go.

A board of directors from French railway company SNCF, which owns SeaFrance, believe this is the best way to keep the troubled operator afloat.

Implementation of the plan will begin at the end of September.

A spokesman from the firm said mainly sea-going personnel would be affected but stressed that SNCF was doing all it could to help workers find new jobs.

She said: "SNCF has made more than 400 jobs available within the group for SeaFrance staff to take up and generous severance compensation is on offer".

### Leaked

Crossings by SeaFrance's freight-only ship will also be reduced.

The spokesman said: "The recovery plan is based on a three-ship fleet plus the utilisation of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais freight-only ship on a limited basis until the end of the year."

The move follows a memo by Pierre Fa, chairman of the board of directors, which was leaked to French media, in which he voiced concerns that SeaFrance could face bankruptcy.

But his fears were played down by the company, with a spokesman stating that SeaFrance had seen an increase in business.

Problems in the firm were exposed in February and LD Lines and Brittany Ferries came forward with partial takeover plans.

Both offers were considered by SNCF, but the recent recovery plan is the first step forward as bosses look at the best way to secure the future of the company.

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Pay a registration fee and raise a minimum amount of sponsorship for **Martha Trust**

<input type="checkbox"/> Cycle London to Paris:	25 - 28 June 2010
<input type="checkbox"/> Trek Mont Blanc:	26 - 30 August 2010
<input type="checkbox"/> Climb Kilimanjaro:	16 - 26 September 2010
<input type="checkbox"/> Trek the Great Wall of China:	9 - 18 October 2010

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ref: YLH  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

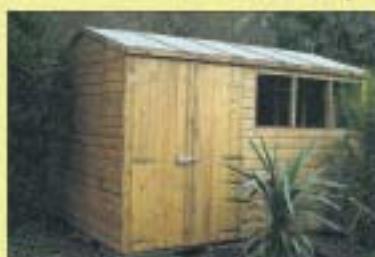
Please send to: Serita Boxall, Martha Trust, Homemead Lane, Hacklinge, Deal, Kent CT14 0PS

For further information email: [seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk](mailto:seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk)

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### FIONA WISEMAN



**Q & A**

The senior social-work practitioner for Macmillan Cancer Support in Kent spoke to **Jon Coates** about the variety of ways the charity's professionals can help cancer victims and their families across the county

**Q** Can you tell us a little about yourself?

**A**I am a fully-qualified social-worker and have a masters degree in social care from Hull University, where I specialised in palliative and adult care. I was the first social-worker to be based in a cancer services team in a Kent hospital, have now been a social-worker for more than ten years and became Macmillan's senior social-work practitioner in July. I have worked as the social-worker within the cancer services team at Medway Maritime Hospital for eight years and have also worked as a social-worker at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury, so I have experience of supporting a range of cancer patients.

**Q**Tell us about your role

**A**I work with any cancer patient, their family, carers and friends in the early stages of their cancer diagnosis to meet their emotional and practical needs. Social needs are equally as important to address as health problems.

**Q**How can you help them?

**A**A cancer diagnosis can have a huge impact on families emotionally, practically and financially. Most cancer patients I see would be ineligible for a local authority social-worker, so I provide an important service to many patients who would otherwise not

receive this kind of social support. Through my access to resources and specialist advice, I can give patients detailed knowledge and expertise about things like benefits, grants and housing.

**Q**How do people diagnosed with cancer get put in touch with you?

**A**Macmillan's clinical nurse specialists refer patients to me and I have around 70 patients on my caseload. I see patients either at home or in hospital.

**Q**What financial help can Macmillan provide for cancer patients?

**A**Financial problems can be a huge heartache for families and some cancer patients refuse treatment until these issues are resolved. Carers and patients may have to cut their working hours or stop work completely. To help patients with the financial impact of cancer, I help with applications for benefits and grants, such as Macmillan's financial grants scheme.

More and more patients are applying for financial grants to pay for things like utility bills, so they're invaluable. Grants can also be used for things to help improve a person's quality of life. For example, I recently successfully applied for a grant that helped a female cancer patient buy some exercise equipment to help her feel better about herself and build her self-esteem. I also secured a grant for a man undergoing dialysis who needed a low table so he

could receive treatment more comfortably at home. Grants have been given to some patients so they can do a course and gain confidence before returning to work. I also help families budget and help them apply for schemes such as the blue badge for disabled drivers.

**Q**Do you also act as a counsellor for cancer victims and their families?

**A**Providing emotional support is a key part of what I do. Families can feel quite helpless when a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis – they often feel a lack of control. Couples may not be talking to one another and will need a safe, open environment to open up and start communicating again. The counselling is flexible – some families may have a one-off appointment, others have regular sessions.

**Q**Why are Macmillan professionals needed and should the NHS be supporting patients better?

**A**Patients often tell me that being supported by someone not medically orientated really helps. I will explain the treatment in simple terms and clarify confusing terminology, for example explaining terms like a domiciliary nurse or what care is provided by a hospice.

We are now recruiting another Macmillan social-worker who will be part of Medway Maritime's new Positive Living Team. I am proud to be part of a Macmillan professional team that provides a holistic patient experience and improves the lives of cancer patients.

**CROSSKEYS**  COACHES



## 2009 DAY TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS

### August

		ADULT
Thu 20th	Legoland	£31.50
Sat 22nd	Wembley Stadium Tour	£33.00
Sat 22nd	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
Thu 27th	Boulogne	£23.00
Fri 28th	Thorpe Park	£39.00
Sat 29th	Brussels	£31.00
Sun 30th	Diggerland	£23.00
Mon 31st	Walking With Dinosaurs The Arena Spectacular	£50.00

### Boulogne & Le Touquet

Friday 11th –  
Saturday 12th September  
**£74 Per Person,  
Bed & Breakfast**

### September

		ADULT
Wed 2nd	Buckingham Palace	<b>SOLD OUT</b> £33.00
Sat 5th	Ostend	£24.00
Sun 6th	Duxford Air Show	£39.00
Mon 7th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00

### September

		ADULT
Thu 10th	BBC Television Tour	£23.50
Fri 11th	Boulogne and Le Touquet (2 Days 1 Night)	£74.00
Sat 12th	Le Touquet	£24.50
Mon 13th	Walpole Museum & Shell Grotto	£14.50
Wed 15th	Arras	£27.00
Fri 17th	Boulogne	£23.00
Sat 19th	Montreuil	£25.00
Sun 20th	LondonEye, Carvery & Cruise	£54.00
Wed 23rd	Audley End House & Gardens	£24.00
Sat 26th	Sluis	£33.00
Wed 30th	Bruges	£31.00

### October

		ADULT
Sat 3rd	De Panne	£19.50
Mon 5th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00

### Birmingham Tattoo

Saturday 28th –  
Sunday 29th November  
**£97 Per Person,  
Bed & Breakfast**

### Warners Bodelwyddan Castle

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Friday 4th December  
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Funeral of Captain Ben Babington-Browne, killed in Afghanistan. Search 'Ben'



Festival commemorates Kent's mining heritage. Search 'mining'



Tom Betts samples exotic meats at acclaimed Indian restaurant. Search 'exotic'



The Clash's Nick 'Topper' Headon opens an event for Porchlight. Search 'Headon'



The Kingfisher Trust runs boat trips for disabled people. Search 'Kingfisher'

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)

# It's a vine time to be a Kentish wine producer

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

FOUR Kent vineyards have been popping the corks after doing well at this year's Decanter World Wine Awards.

While Bordeaux, Champagne and even Chablis, may spring to mind when considering the best wines in the world, it seems Cranbrook and Tenterden need to be added to the list.

The organisers of the most influential and prestigious wine competition in the world, said the Kent winemakers have put the county on the global wine map.

The awards attracted more entries from producers across the globe than ever before, yet despite the increased competition four Kentish wineries scooped an impressive nine awards between them, including the much-sought after Regional Trophy.

The Chapel Down Winery in Tenterden scooped five medals.

They were two bronzes for its Rosé Brut NV and Pinot Reserve 2004, plus three that were commended. They were Century Extra Dry NV, plus Brut NV and Bacchus Reserve 2007.

Boss Guy Tresnan said: "We are delighted to have been recognised for the quality of our wines, particularly as these awards are international."

"After the announcement we got calls from around the world from potential trade customers and consumers, genuinely engaged by what we are doing here in the heart of the Kent."

Meopham Valley was awarded a commended for its Brut 2004, and a bronze for its Rosé Brut 2005. Owner David Grey said: "This year's success validates our wines internationally as well as validating them to our consumers."

Gusbourne Estate Vineyard in Ashford took



RAISE A GLASS: Richard Balfour-Lynn, winner of the Regional Trophy at the Decanter World Wine Awards

a bronze award for the Classic Blend 2006.

And Hush Heath Manor in Cranbrook won a Regional Trophy for its Balfour Brut Rosé.

Richard Balfour-Lynn, producer at Hush Heath, said: "We all feel enormous pride at winning the Decanter World Wine gold medal and trophy. This gives the whole team involved with Balfour Brut Rosé a huge boost and provides the encouragement to know that we are on the right track in creating an English pink fizz that can compete with the best French Rosé Champagnes.

"The passion with which we grow our grapes and make our wine, combined with enormous attention to detail, has lead to us winning this prestigious award."

Christelle Guibert, Decanter's tastings director said it was a great result for the county.

She said: "This is a fantastic result for UK wines and further proof, should anyone need it, that home-produced bottles can compete at an international level."

"The raft of awards for England and Wales this year is testament to the world-class quality of locally produced wines. It is a delight to be able to showcase them in our globally recognised competition."

Kent did so well it has helped convince the chairman of the awards, Steven Spurrier and his wife Bella, to pick the region to embark on their very own vineyard.

Mr Spurrier recognises the value of the Decanter World Wine Awards for UK vineyards, and said: "I feel this year the awards have moved from being a successful wine competition into an arena where it is a beacon for wine all around the world."

[foodforkent.co.uk](http://foodforkent.co.uk)

KOS Campaign 2009



## Raise a glass to cider

IT is one of the biggest events in Kent's apple calendar and this year's Cider Festival lurks just around the corner.

Apple-fuelled events will start at Brogdale Farm on September 19. With more than 98 cider apples and 20 Perry pears in the National Fruit Collection, there promises to be an array of different tipplers to taste and buy.

It should also be a great day out for all the family, with cooking demonstrations, tours of the National Fruit Collection, live music, mini railway, horse display and a hog roast.

For more information call 01795 536250 or visit [www.brogdalecollections.co.uk](http://www.brogdalecollections.co.uk).

## Deli defies recession

ENJOY the best of Kent produce in the heart of Canterbury, at a brand new deli and cafe.

Husband and wife team Adrian and Tanya used all their savings to set up The Cathedral Deli.

"Despite little support from the banks due to the economic climate, worries from families and friends and giving up secure careers, we soldiered on," Tanya said. "Within the first few days the response to our little Kentish deli and cafe has been amazing and defied all our critics."

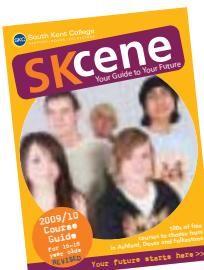
"We have been full every lunchtime and the public has loved the quality of the Kent products we use in our sandwiches and home cooking."

Their menu includes Kentish rarebit, a twist on the classic Welsh dish, which uses Ashmore Cheese from Cheese Makers of Canterbury and Shepherd Neame Spitfire Ale.

Another treat is shepherd's pie made with organic lamb mince from Monkshill Farm in Faversham and a Monmouth blend used in their coffees.

The deli can be found at 17b Burgate and is open from Monday to Saturday.

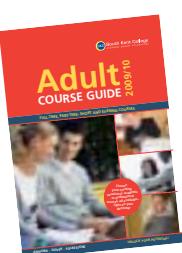
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# introducing our brand new timetable

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4th May - 7th September 2009



monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<b>STUDIO 1</b>  08.30 - 09.15 Boxercise 09.30 - 10.30 BLT Blitz 10.30 - 11.30 Hi/Lo Swiss Ball 11.40 - 12.40 Body Combat 14.30 - 15.30 Young at Heart 18.00 - 19.00 Body Combat 19.10 - 20.10 Body Pump 20.15 - 21.30 Yoga	<b>STUDIO 1</b>  06.45 - 07.30 Body Pump 09.15 - 10.15 Boxercise 10.30 - 11.30 Body Pump 12.15 - 13.00 Step 18.00 - 19.00 Step 19.00 - 20.15 Fitness Yoga	<b>STUDIO 1</b>  09.30 - 10.30 BLT Blitz 10.45 - 11.45 Total Body Blast 14.30 - 15.30 Young at Heart 19.00 - 20.00 Body Combat 20.00 - 21.00 Body Pump	<b>STUDIO 1</b>  09.30 - 10.30 Body Pump 18.00 - 19.00 Boxercise 19.00 - 20.00 Total Body Blast 20.00 - 21.00 Swiss Ball Blitz	<b>STUDIO 1</b>  09.30 - 10.30 Step 10.30 - 11.30 Body Combat 14.30 - 15.30 Young at Heart 18.00 - 19.00 Body Pump	<b>STUDIO 1</b>  08.00 - 08.15 Body Clinic 08.15 - 09.15 Body Combat 09.30 - 10.30 Body Pump 13.00 - 14.00 Fit Club (6-8 years)
<b>SPIN STUDIO</b>  06.45 - 07.30 Early Spin 09.30 - 10.15 'Vibe' Spin 20.15 - 21.00 Spin	<b>SPIN STUDIO</b>  11.45 - 12.30 Advanced Spin 18.00 - 18.30 Begin to Spin 19.00 - 19.45 Spin	<b>SPIN STUDIO</b>  06.45 - 07.30 Early Spin 09.45 - 10.30 Spin 17.45 - 18.30 Spin	<b>SPIN STUDIO</b>  08.00 - 08.45 Spin 11.30 - 12.15 Spin 19.30 - 20.15 Advanced Spin	<b>SPIN STUDIO</b>  06.45 - 07.30 Early Spin 09.15 - 10.00 Advanced Spin 19.00 - 19.45 Spin	<b>SPIN STUDIO</b>  13.00 - 13.45 Spin
<b>MIND &amp; BODY</b>  12.15 - 13.45 Yoga 17.45 - 18.30 Abs Stretch & Tone 18.30 - 19.45 Pilates	<b>MIND &amp; BODY</b>  09.45 - 11.15 Yoga 13.30 - 14.45 Yoga 20.00 - 20.45 Glide & Sculpt	<b>MIND &amp; BODY</b>  12.30 - 13.30 Pilates 13.30 - 14.30 Chi Ball 16.00 - 17.30 Power Yoga 18.00 - 19.00 Stretch & Tone 19.00 - 20.30 Pilates	<b>MIND &amp; BODY</b>  09.45 - 11.15 Yoga 11.30 - 12.30 Pilates 18.00 - 19.00 Pilates	<b>MIND &amp; BODY</b>  10.15 - 11.45 Yoga	<b>MIND &amp; BODY</b>  08.15 - 09.00 Abs, Stretch & Tone 09.30 - 10.30 Pilates 11.30 - 12.30 Pilates
<b>AQUA</b>  10.30 - 11.15 Aqua 19.30 - 20.15 Aqua	<b>AQUA</b>  11.15 - 12.00 Aqua Attack	<b>AQUA</b>  12.15 - 13.00 Aqua	<b>AQUA</b>  11.30 - 12.15 Aqua 20.15 - 21.00 Aqua	<b>AQUA</b>  11.15 - 12.00 Aqua Attack	<b>AQUA</b>  09.30 - 10.00 Ab Attack 10.00 - 11.00 Body Combat
<b>GYM</b>  10.30 - 11.30 Plan B			<b>GYM</b>  20.15 - 21.15 Plan B		<b>SPIN STUDIO</b>  08.30 - 10.00 Yoga 10.15 - 11.00 Spin 17.00 - 18.00 Spin & Abs

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## BREAK TIME

### Jeremy returns to uni that helped him

GILLINGHAM graduate Jeremy Allison is set to train as a teacher after completing a degree in business administration.

The 26-year-old, who has MS, battled against his condition to gain a 2:1 qualification at the University of Greenwich.

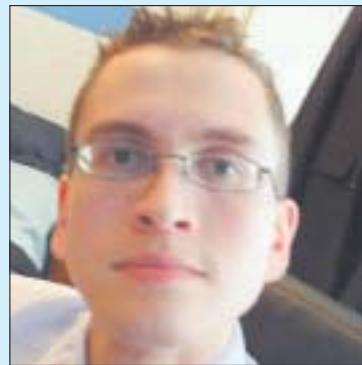
He has now re-enrolled at the university on a post-graduate certificate of education course.

Jeremy said Greenwich played a large role in helping him complete his degree.

"I was studying at there in 2003 when I fell ill and had to give up my degree."

"Four years later I was able to resume my course and the university was very good about allowing me to do this."

"I found it very tiring commuting to Greenwich from Gillingham every day. But the university transferred me to study at Medway. The tutors were very supportive without making a fuss."



TEACHER TRAINING: Jeremy Allison

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

WOULD-BE university students who want to take on courses at the start of the next academic year are being urged to apply through the clearing process.

The University of Greenwich is inviting learners to get in touch with the further education provider before the new term begins in September.

Head of recruitment Bev Woodhams said: "This is Clearing – the summer months when you can apply directly to the university for a place this year."

"There are lots of interesting courses, from environmental science through to media and tourism."

"We take on 5,000 students every year from

#### BEV'S TOP 10 TIPS:

1 Keep calm: There are still places at lots of universities. Extra places were created this year, so although more people are applying, there will be vacancies on many courses.

2 Check original choices first: If you just missed your required grades, don't despair. Contact your first-choice university and they may still offer you a place. If not, check out your second choice.

3 Be positive: If neither institution will confirm their offer, you are now a Clearing Applicant. You can call any higher education institution in the UK directly and ask if they will accept you on to a particular course with the qualifications you have.

4 Do your research: Don't panic and take the

first vacancy you see. The decision you make now will affect several years of your life. Search the papers and university websites for courses you are interested in and check their entry criteria. If you have the grades or points they require, or you are close, give them a call.

5 Be prepared: Before you phone, make a list of questions. Ask if you can speak to an academic (one of the teaching staff) about the course. Ensure you have the results of both your recent exams and your GCSEs to hand. Give several universities a ring to see what they can offer.

6 Check it out: Make time to visit. If you are serious about studying somewhere you need to know what it's like. You wouldn't buy a pair of shoes without trying them on, would you? Attend the open day or ask to arrange a visit.

7 Are you sure? Have you achieved better grades than expected, or changed your mind about the offer you hold? This year UCAS has introduced a five-day 'Adjustment period' from August 20. You can shop around, safe in the knowledge that if you don't find a place you prefer elsewhere, you still have your original offer.

8 Money, money, money: Have you applied for all the money you're entitled to? What bursaries and scholarships are on offer? Each year a huge amount goes unclaimed. This is free money so do research and see what's on offer.

9 Push the (TRACK) button: Once you are sure where and what you are going to study, you must confirm your decision online using UCAS Track. UCAS will let the institution know your decision.

and find out what's possible.

"So whatever your age or previous qualifications, if you've got it in you to study at a higher level, go on the website at [www.gre.ac.uk](http://www.gre.ac.uk) or give us a ring on our hotline on 0800 005 006."

10 Start getting excited: You are about to take your learning to another level, meet new people and have loads of new opportunities. Welcome to Higher Education.



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# Tamiflu risks 'outweighed by benefits' urges doctor

CHILDREN with severe swine flu who do not take Tamiflu could face serious complications and even death, a leading family doctor has warned parents.

The antiviral medicine has been mired in controversy after two studies found more than half of youngsters who took the drug suffered side effects such as nausea and nightmares.

Another study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) suggested antiviral medication does not prevent complications, such as pneumonia and severe asthma, in children with flu.

But Dr Caroline Jessel, deputy medical director at NHS West Kent, urged parents to continue giving Tamiflu and other antivirals to their children if they are prescribed.

"If the child was quite unwell and I was a parent, then the risk of taking them is less than the risk of not taking Tamiflu and getting really ill with swine flu," she said.

Asked if there was a danger in parents not giving their children antivirals due to fears over side-effects, Dr Jessel said: "I think it would not be sensible to withhold it, particularly where they are severely affected."

"Some of the complications may well be prevented and the complications may be more severe and longer in duration [if Tamiflu is not taken]."

She said the number of patients being prescribed Tamiflu had fallen significantly in recent weeks, but the virus has not disappeared, she warned. NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent also said that the number of people with swine flu-like symptoms in its area had also decreased over the past week.

■ BY JENNA PUDELIK

"The research has thrown a different perspective on Tamiflu and helped us to understand its impact better," Dr Jessel added.

"It is not really relevant in a flu pandemic because it is based on seasonal flu. It is interesting but not necessarily going to change the advice."

"Our advice is still relatively straight forward – if symptoms are quite severe, obviously they need help and it is effective in reducing the duration and symptoms of the swine flu. For very mild cases it has always been the case not to give antivirals."

Matthew Thompson, author of the BMJ study, told New Scientist: "It may be worth the DoH taking the new research on board and perhaps having a more targeted approach to the use of antivirals, or urgently conducting randomised controlled trials of children and adults to identify whether there are subgroups of children who will benefit from antivirals."

Healthy children and babies under six months old will not be among those given the vaccine against swine flu, the Government has announced.

A mass immunisation campaign, which will target more than 11 million people, focused on those whose underlying health conditions put them at risk from the pandemic, will begin in October. The DoH said preparations were also being made to extend the programme.

Children have not been included in the first wave of vaccinations because although they are disproportionately affected by the virus, the vast majority make a full recovery.



## GPs back access to records

DOCTORS in the county have supported proposals to allow the public to view and amend their medical records online.

The suggestion, put forward by the Conservatives this week, is part of plans to give patients more control over their records.

Patients would be able to log in online to access their records, add details and share experiences with other patients.

It would also provide a resource for those who have to monitor conditions on a daily basis, who could record their findings to produce a detailed record for their doctor.

Dr Mike Parks, from the Kent Local Medical Committee, said this resource would help doctors and patients alike.

"Importantly, for patients and doctors, it would also ensure medical information is up-to-date and correct," he said.

"But there would need to be some very careful safeguards in place."

It is hoped that by making access easier through the use of the internet, patients would be more likely to update their details in cases where they may normally wait until a visit to their GP.

Currently, patients have the rights under the Data Protection Act 1998 to inspect medical records. However, access often has to be applied for in writing first of all, with a payment usually required, £10 for computerised records or £50 for manual records.

## Fears of poor wheat harvest

FARMERS across the county are bracing themselves for another potentially devastating wheat harvest that could cost the industry millions of pounds.

The recent poor weather has defied predictions of a barbecue summer and left many farmers fearing big losses.

Last year's harvest was dubbed "the worst in living memory" according to Kent's National Farmers' Union chairman Kevin Attwood.

The Downcourt Farm manager from Doddington, near Faversham, expressed concern that a repeat of 2008's harvests would have major implications.

He said: "It will make life very difficult for farmers if wheat crops are too wet and can't be used for milling."

"This means the value of them drops by 40 per cent from £130 a tonne to £90 a tonne and



they have to be used for animal feed. Wet wheat has to be dried artificially which also adds to farmers' costs considerably."

Sandra Nichols, NFU South East policy advisor shared his concerns over this season's crops – she believed the next few weeks would prove critical.

She said: "Last year's harvest in particular was very bad. With the added costs of replacing machinery and equipment, things have been very tough."



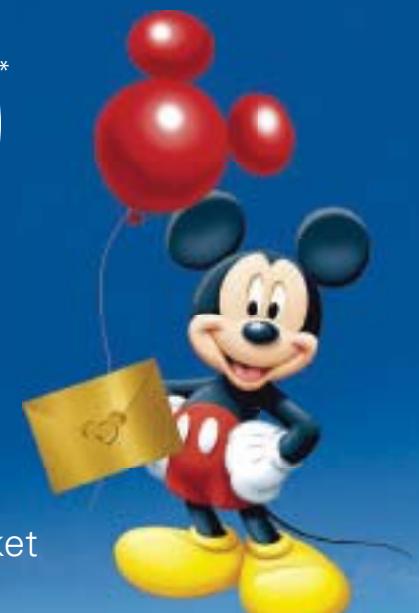
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# yourblogger

It's about time the Government honoured its promise to veterans of the Suez crisis



## It's time to honour promise made to Suez Canal veterans

IN January 1952, the General Officer Commanding Egypt, General Sir Brian Robertson, recommended a campaign medal for British forces taking part in the crisis in the Suez Canal in 1951.

That recommendation was never considered by the Army Council.

In July 2002, Tony Blair announced that a sub-committee would be set up to consider the question of a campaign medal, and appointed General Lord Guthrie as chairman.

General Guthrie then selected his own committee. The most notable absentee was a representative from the Royal Navy.

General Guthrie inferred that the Royal Navy had a minimal role at Suez, whereas the Royal Navy deployed more warships in Suez in October 1951 than were deployed during the Korean War or the Falklands War and, as

such, was exposed to much the same danger as the Army and RAF.

In June 2003, the Guthrie Committee agreed that a campaign medal should have been awarded and that those who served in the Suez Canal between 1951 and 1954 for a period of 30 or more days should be eligible.

The committee's discussion – whether those 30 days should be aggregated or continuous – was not part of the sub-committee's recommendations.

The Ministry of Defence was asked to recommend the eligibility criteria. Its report recommended that service could be aggregated.

In the Cabinet Office in August 2003, the Ceremonial Officer, Gay Catto, without authority from General Guthrie's sub-committee, altered 'aggregated' to read 'continuous' before submitting the resulting White Paper for approval by HM The Queen and presentation to Parliament in October 2003.

Mrs Catto's actions subsequently denied a huge number of Royal Navy veterans the

award they so richly deserved.

We have raised the 'continuous' question with local MPs and questioned various Secretaries of State for Defence and Veterans Ministers – I believe that we have been lied to and betrayed by the government of the day.

We have asked General Guthrie twice, in writing, if he agreed with Mrs Catto's action in altering the MOD's recommendations and twice, in writing, he has failed to do so.

We suspect the Cabinet Office is more interested in protecting the reputation of a now-retired civil servant than in honouring Royal Navy veterans, all now aged 75 or over.

The Government should honour the 2003 promise that ALL British servicemen who served in the Suez Canal between 1951 and 1954 would be awarded a General Service Medal.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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# your competition

**DEBENHAMS**  
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DISCOVER Bluezoo, the exciting new childrenswear range at Debenhams. Everyday clothing that is modern, fashionable, durable and good value, from baby to 12 yrs, they have ranges for play, day and partywear.

Introduced to compliment the existing designer brands, Bluezoo caters for the fashionable, yet price-conscious consumers who are looking for modern, trend-led, affordable products that are high quality.

For boys, denim is a wardrobe essential. Jeans in authentic washes and fits make up the backbone of the range, teamed with a wide selection of cool graphic tees, jersey layering pieces, shirts, knitwear and outerwear. Age appropriate graphics include robots, tools and monsters for toddlers through to cheeky slogans, dinosaurs and all things 'rock' for the younger boy. Colour palettes are fun and wearable, mixing up a range of bluetones from navy to turquoise with 'on trend' primary brights.

For girls, the range mixes essential and trend focussed denim pieces with fashion forward products in the latest silhouettes. These include graphic tees, woven and jersey tops, dresses, knitwear and outerwear. The Bluezoo girls offer includes three different styles – Sporty, Pretty and London Girl.

Sporty Girl is all about fun weekend dressing, bright colours, fun stripes and patterns. The statement shapes are easy to wear – cute graphic or character tees, layered with sweats and knits worn with embellished authentic denim to give that fun bright look.

Pretty Girl is a softer colour palette with feminine pretty shapes including the prom

# WIN! £150 to spend on Bluezoo childrenswear

dress and the layered skirt mixed up with cute tees and knitwear.

London Girl is the most fashion forward of the three looks and includes catwalk inspired shapes, funky prints and cool graphic tees mixed with new denim.

Yourlocal has teamed up with Debenhams to offer two lucky readers £150 each to spend on Childrenswear in either Debenhams Canterbury or Folkestone.

To enter, simply answer the question below pop along to Debenhams Folkestone or Canterbury and give your entry in at the children's department or send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Blue Zoo Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is August 31, 2009.

**Question: What is the name of the new make of childrenswear in Debenhams?**

No purchase necessary.

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry

#### Shopping spree terms and conditions:

- 1 Entries must be received by 5.30pm on Monday, August 31.
- 2 The winning entry will be drawn on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 and the winner will be notified by telephone by Wednesday, September 2, 2009.
- 3 The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 4 The prize will be £150 to spend on any own bought, full price Childrenswear merchandise from Debenhams Canterbury and Folkestone stores only.
- 5 There is no cash prize alternative to the stated prize and the competition is restricted to UK residents only. No purchase necessary.
- 6 The prize is not valid against the purchase of financial services, Debenhams food services, cash, gift vouchers or giftcards or in payment of any outstanding balance on your Debenhams account.
- 7 Only one entry per person.
- 8 No one associated with the promotion or employees of the Debenhams PLC Group of companies or employees of KOS Media are eligible to enter.
- 9 Persons under the age of 18 are not eligible to enter.
- 10 The winner must redeem the prize by Tuesday, September 8, 2009.



# summer fun for all the family at Bluewater

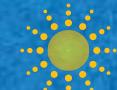
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**Family Films**  
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**Treejumpers**  
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**Bungee Trampoline,  
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in the Blue Lagoon (close to M&S car park)

**Art Competition**  
at Castle Galleries



**Win a mountain bike**  
at Webster's Pen Shop



**Animal Visits**  
from Old MacDonald's Farm in the Blue Lagoon  
(close to M&S car park)



**Beach Party**  
at John Lewis

# yourletters

## YOUR LETTERS

### Don't let painting just waste away

The August 5 edition of Yourshepway carried a story headlined 'King of Belgium revealed at last', referring to the oil-painting 'The Landing of the Belgium Refugees, August 1914'.

This picture was painted and presented by Signor Fredo Franzoni to the people of Folkestone in 1916.

The painting used to be seen in the hallway of Kent County Council's library and museum in Folkestone until it was damaged and removed from public display.

Then, early this year, it was moved out of Grace Hill and now hangs in one of the rooms of The Grand in Folkestone.

I was interested to see that the



**REAL DEAL:** The King and Queen of Belgium

bottom part of the picture published with the article had been chopped off.

This covered up another story: If you look closely at the 5in x 2in picture, you can just see that the sunlight has caught and highlighted the beginning of the substantial wrinkles that have been forming at the bottom of the painting.

This painting needs urgent restoration work; it is over 7ft (226cm) high and just under 11ft (324cm) in length, and almost 100 years old.

The weight of the canvas and oil-paint is now proving too much for the fragile canvas to take and is seemly tearing at the top where the canvas is attached to its wooden frame. This was reported to KCC staff, along with other damage, some years ago.

Also it was brought to the attention of councillors, and then to our Member of Parliament, who was recently informed by KCC in May this year that "We are currently working with the town council to seek funding for the restoration work".

Perhaps, now that Yourshepway has brought this painting to the attention of the public, that interest in this painting can be kept up and the funds that KCC apparently claims it has not got could be found to refurbish the painting.

As for the claim that the King of Belgium is portrayed in the painting, the attached First World War photograph was taken on board the destroyer HM Attentive, of the Dover Patrol, in which the King and Queen of Belgium can be seen on deck during a Channel crossing.

It seems there is little similarity between the King of Belgium and

the person in the painting whom some thought looked liked him.

Furthermore, according to the artist, the gentleman standing on the left of Sir Stephen Penfold, Mayor of Folkestone, in the painting is not the King of Belgium – but Monsieur A Peterson, Belgian Vice-Consul.

Christopher Conn  
Folkestone

### Store open day was wasted opportunity

With everyone looking at the development of Dover and the future of its shopping and image, I as much as anyone was glad to hear that new supermarkets are investing in our town.

Unfortunately, I, along with many others, been made redundant and was pleased to see Morrisons advertising for management.

The advert was a third of a page and asked people to come along to find out more about the company and to introduce ourselves.

I took the time to put on my best suit, pay for parking, take my CV and covering letter, with the opportunity to sell myself to the company which I feel will bring a lot to our town.

It was with great disappointment that I found the whole process to be a quick process of 'Where did you see the advert and here is an application form – please fill it in and hand back'.

Being in retail management for more than 20 years and having some pre-thought, I had already been online and filled out this form.

On telling the staff there I had already done this, they said "Well, that's all we need".

I was amazed – no chance to

introduce ourselves or show how we could fit in to the company.

It really did turn the whole process into an application-form lottery as the form is not very diverse and nor does not give much space to show your ability.

The whole process not only shows little commitment from Morrisons to finding the right people to work at the store in Dover but also to all those who took the time and patience to attend a well-advertised open day to try to find employment or further their career prospects.

Let us all hope that as a large retail food store, it will take more notice of the shopping needs and service requirements of the town's people when it does open.

Name and address supplied to the editor

### Airport story: claim was never made

In reply to the report on page 4 of the July 29 edition of Yourshepway, I have to respond and take issue with the three main points.

The headline 'Councillors are backing us, claim airport supporters...' this is not true and the claim was never made.

The letter sent out by myself to Shepway councillors at no time called for their support but was to ask them to look at and draw their attention to points in planning law and the way the two planning applications have been dealt with by the planning officers.

As a member of FLAG (Friends of Lydd Airport), at no time did I claim that councillors had expressed privately their desire to see the two applications approved.

What I did say was that I was encouraged by the response from

the number of councillors who had taken the time to acknowledge my letter.

It would be a betrayal of confidence to state in public any comments made by a Shepway councillor on the two airport applications and, more importantly, it would exclude them from voting.

The very thing that FLAG has always tried to do to the best of its ability is to maintain the upmost credibility and integrity in all matters relating to the airport redevelopment... something that cannot be said for a number of opposition groups.

Brian Godfrey (member of FLAG)  
Lyminge

### Creative ideas that are the way ahead

It was good to read that the Folkestone Creative Quarter regeneration scheme is still going ahead despite the economic gloom.

These sorts of downturns are caused largely by businesses losing their confidence and withdrawing contracts, thus causing other companies to suffer difficulties.

It is full marks for the people behind the plans to improve our town that they are going ahead in this way and not losing faith.

If more businesses were adopting this approach, the recession would not have gripped nearly so hard.

Also it makes for extremely good business sense.

If more building companies are charging less and less because the work is not out there, it really does make sense to take advantage of that fact.

Ian Harris  
by email

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The image displays a collage of various screens from the Your Kent TV website and mobile application. It includes a desktop view of the homepage with news articles and video thumbnails, a mobile phone showing a video player, and a tablet displaying a different section of the site. The overall theme is digital media and community engagement.



Award Winning Company

## There's allot of need for more land

Kent Green Party is calling on all councils in Kent and Medway to amend their Local Development Framework documents to allocate more land to allotments.

People are buying more seeds for growing than ever before.

Similarly, demand for allotments is growing so fast that waiting lists mean people may wait decades for an allotment.

When people are responding to the recession by trying to grow more of their own food, we need councils to step in and increase the amount of land available for allotments.

Kent Green Party wants all the local councils in Kent to allocate more land to allotments under their Local Development Frameworks.

A typical allotment in the UK attracts 30 applicants and will save a user about £950 a year on food.

Recent research suggests six million people in the UK would like an allotment but there are only about 206,000 allotment plots.

Kent Green Party suggests councils look for new allotment sites. Industrial-estate land empty more than two years could be put to better use.

Allotments are a much better use of some flood-prone sites than is housing.

And what about agricultural land next to urban areas?

There is ample evidence of demand

for allotments throughout Kent.

Also, under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, councils have a duty to provide allotments where there is demand for them in their area.

**Dr Hazel Dawe**  
Kent Green Party

## Running your breast for cancer charity

It's back – the Adidas Women's 5K Challenge is returning to London next month and Breast Cancer Campaign wants you on its Guardian Angels team.

Thousands of women will descend on Hyde Park for the 5K race on Sunday, September 6, and the charity wants to encourage runners to fly around the course while raising money for breast cancer research.

By joining the Guardian Angels team, named after the campaign's breast awareness ambassador, every runner will receive a pair of pink fairy wings, a professional Ronhill running vest and support throughout their training.

Last year, 456 runners joined our Guardian Angels team and raised more than £38,000 for breast cancer research.

If you would like to become a Guardian Angel, please phone 020 7749 3700 or email [womenschallenge@breastcancercampaign.org](mailto:womenschallenge@breastcancercampaign.org).

**Cecilia Owen**, Guardian Angels leader for Breast Cancer Campaign

## Don't let meningitis be misdiagnosed

I lost my young daughter to meningitis and was extremely concerned to read the news of two-year-old Georgia Keeling.

She was misdiagnosed with swine flu and died from meningitis just three hours later.

Doctors thought my daughter Jessica, also two, had a gastric infection and she died from the disease the very next day.

Sadly, both their deaths show how difficult it is to confuse meningitis with less deadly and more common diseases such as flu.

Hearing how Georgia died from meningitis just three hours after paramedics gave her Tamiflu should hopefully remind people how important it is to know the symptoms of meningitis and not confuse it with illnesses like swine flu.

In babies, an unusual cry, dislike of being handled and refusing feeds can indicate meningitis.

Other signs include a headache, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, cold hands and feet, fever, vomiting, confusion and drowsiness.

If you suspect something is seriously wrong with your child, then please persist and make sure they get the treatment they deserve.

Please call the charity on 0117 373 7373 or visit [www.meningitisuk.org](http://www.meningitisuk.org) for a free information pack.

**Kelly Crisp**  
Broxbourne



Visit your vet for a  
FREE dental check-up  
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During September over 1,500 veterinary practices will be providing FREE dental check-ups for dogs.

A staggering 4 out of 5 dogs over the age of 3 experience gum disease. That's why vets around the country are joining together to help tackle the problem.

For more information and to find details of your nearest participating vet visit: [pedigreedentastix.co.uk](http://pedigreedentastix.co.uk)



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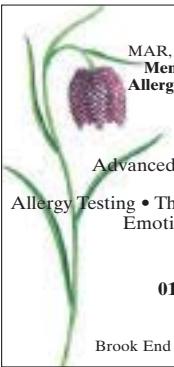
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# Now lasers can help you stop smoking

### ■ Canterbury Skin and Laser

LASERS are used in a wide range of medical procedures – and now they can help you stop smoking.

The Canterbury Skin & Laser Clinic has introduced a new treatment to help smokers cut out the deadly weed.

Dr Alice Hudson-Peacock runs the centre, which can tackle virtually any problem of skin, and has beauty therapists to provide a full range of beauty treatments.

Stopping smoking is one more thing people are trying to do now, but is one of the most

hardest to actually follow and conquer.

Dr Hudson-Peacock said: "We are delighted to introduce Nicolite to the clinic – a revolutionary low-powered laser, which is clinically proven to help stop smoking. The low level laser light when absorbed in points of the body can stimulate releases of endorphins the body's natural pain killers.

"It effectively replicates the effect that nicotine has on the body's thereby reducing cravings."

In a recent clinical trial in Middlesex University, 70 per cent of those treated with the laser stopped smoking. Clinical results showed that Nicolite treatments are up to six times more effective than Nicotine patches.

"It works on the same principle as acupuncture," said Dr Hudson-Peacock. "Boosting the endorphins helps deal with the physical symptoms of withdrawal. Obviously you still need the willpower, but it should take just two sessions 24 hours apart."

The clinic had also recently added a Palomar Starlux laser system. Dr Hudson-Peacock said it was a major addition to their range of lasers used for hair and tattoos removal, thread veins and age spots removal.

They can also be used to deal with loose skin around the neck and jowls, as well as acne, scarring and wrinkles.

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These toning beds mimic the muscle movements which occur during exercise and can be placed on whatever part of the body needs to be toned up, tightening sagging muscles and visibly decreasing unwanted inches. In summer toning beds are extremely popular and special discounted rates are offered for wedding packages.

The salon is open on Monday from 9am to 4pm, Tuesday 10am to 5pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 8pm, Friday 10am to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 5pm.

Loyalty cards and introduce a friend schemes are also available and all treatment courses are currently on a buy one, get one free basis.

**Be a Beauty Ltd, 32A Bouverie Square, Folkestone CT20 1BA, [babeauty@btconnect.com](mailto:babeauty@btconnect.com)**

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# Hang out at Bay festival

From cockney legends Chas 'n' Dave to dance theatre and graffiti art, there's something to please everyone

### HERNE BAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 22, to  
Sunday, August 30  
Various venues, Herne Bay



COCKNEY legends Chas 'n' Dave are among the highlights of this year's Herne Bay Festival.

The hugely popular duo will be performing a concert of their greatest hits, such as Rabbit, Ain't No Pleasing You and Sideboard Song, as the headline act at Rock Around The Clock on Saturday, August 29.

Local bands have the chance to appear on the bill by competing in a competition being run during the festival. The lucky winners will receive studio time and recordings worth £500, as well as the chance to support Chas 'n' Dave at the concert.

There will be plenty of opportunities for audience participation at Let's Dance, a fun-filled day of free dance demonstrations which opens the festival this Saturday. A shimmering twilight procession with a sea theme will make its way along the seafront on Saturday evening, before a spectacular firework display marks the festival's official opening.

Sunday sees more family fun at the Cherry Orchard playing field, along with a coastal ramble, sailing demonstration race at the pier and more sailing action at the Memorial Park lake.

Whether people want to demonstrate their building prowess in the sandcastle competition, fly a kite or take part in the family cycle ride along the coast, there are lots of ways to get involved in the festival.

Teenagers will not be left out of the fun as music workshops have been arranged just for them.

Young people aged 12 and above are invited to take part in a free workshop at the ACF Drill Hall on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, when they can tell stories about their favourite hang-outs and work with artists to set them to music.

The results will be uploaded at [www.whatareyoudoinghere.co.uk](http://www.whatareyoudoinghere.co.uk) to



create a virtual map showing the best places to hang out in the district.

Teenagers can also take part in the Freestyle @ the Bay urban workshops, which take place at various venues, encompassing graffiti art, street dance, clothes customising and more, followed by a showcase event at the Bandstand on Friday, August 28.

With children's, sports and arts events also on offer, along with performances by MAD project winners, Katy Hirst and Rhiannon Lane, there is something to suit every interest.

Full festival listings can be found on the website at [www.hernebayfestival.co.uk](http://www.hernebayfestival.co.uk) or in the free programmes.

To request a copy, phone 01227 862201, or alternatively email [cassy.fry@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:cassy.fry@canterbury.gov.uk).



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## SANDWICH FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 23 to Monday, August 31  
Various venues, Sandwich

FROM fun runs and films to Beethoven and birds, there are events to suit a wide variety of tastes during the Sandwich Festival.

The excitement gets underway on Sunday with 10km and 6km runs from The Quay at 10am. St Bart's Patronal Festival will be followed by the Bun Run on Monday, while Wednesday's highlights include an appearance by author Mary Berg at The Sandwich Bookshop and a chess tournament at the Sandwich Guildhall.

The Becker Symphony Orchestra will perform the festival concert at St Mary's Church next Thursday and there will be West End musical cabaret at the same venue on Friday. A circus workshop, jazz jamming session, illuminated boat display, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory open day, firework display and much more can be enjoyed during the bank holiday weekend.

From this Monday to bank holiday Monday, The Secret Gardens of Sandwich will play host to an exhibition of 35 contemporary stone sculptures. There will also be live sculpting going on in the gardens.

Festival listings can be found online at [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk).



## SIMON BIRD

Saturday, September 5  
Quarterhouse, Folkestone



BRIGHT young comedy star Simon Bird will be winning over the crowd at the Quarterhouse next month.

As the star of E4's BAFTA-nominated sitcom, The Inbetweeners, Bird plays a former private school student who is suddenly moved to the sixth form at the local comprehensive. Along with three other misfits, he is not geeky enough to be a nerd or popular enough to be a trendy kid, so he finds himself caught somewhere in between.

The series follows the boys' often doomed attempts to get girlfriends and become more popular, but Bird should have no problems being appreciated in Shepway. He won the Best Male Newcomer gong at the British Comedy Awards last year and has received much critical acclaim for his live shows. He has performed in Edinburgh as a member of the comedy trio House of Windsor, and now he visits Kent with his new stand-up show, Simon Bird Presents An Experimental Game Show.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10.

To book call 01303 858500 or visit [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk).



## DIPPERS AND DUNKERS FESTIVAL

Friday, August 21 to Sunday, August 23  
Various venues, Margate



PREPARE for a return to Margate's famous seaside traditions with the new Dippers and Dunkers Festival.

The festival takes its name from the Victorians who 'dipped and dunked' their visitors in Margate's waters when they fancied a sea bathe. The three-day event will put a contemporary slant on variety and burlesque, from a headline show to sideshow illusions, talks and exhibitions.

A highlight will be the Sassy Seaside Show at the Theatre Royal Margate on Friday and Saturday. Audiences will be treated to magic, acrobatics, aerial displays, circus, music and a hint of naughtiness, which means the show is suitable for over-12s.

People with tattoos will have the chance to show off their body art and help to create the Thanet Tattoo, thanks to a touring tattoo exhibition called Skin Deep.

It has been organised by the National Maritime Museum in partnership with Thanet District Council. More information can be found online at [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk).



## DOVER LEISURE

### Families get creative at museum workshop

MAKE a mobile with a seaside theme at Dover Museum's Family Day next week.

On Wednesday, August 26, children and adults are invited to use a variety of materials to create their mobile. The free workshop runs from 10am to 4.30pm.

Normal museum admission charges apply. Entry is free for Dover District Council residents. Call 01304 201066 or visit [www.dovermuseum.co.uk](http://www.dovermuseum.co.uk).

### Classic film showing as part of town's festival

FILM buffs can enjoy the classic movie Genevieve on the big screen at the Empire Cinema in Sandwich.

Showing as part of the Sandwich Festival, the 1953 film sees two friends join the London to Brighton Car Rally. The film is at 7.30pm on Wednesday. Tickets are £5 from Sandwich Tourist Information Centre on 01304 613565.

### Prisoners of war are stars of variety show

PRISONERS-of-war stage a variety show in the closing days of World War Two in It Ain't 'Alf Dover, Dad.

Presented by the George Cross for Dover Campaign, the show is at Dover Town Hall at 7pm on Friday. Tickets are £3 from Dover Visitor Information Centre, Ann & Pam's Florists, Dover Town Council Philips and Drew and Curiosity Gifts. For details, go to [www.thegorgecrossfordover.org.uk](http://www.thegorgecrossfordover.org.uk).

### Enjoy evening with the King at tribute night

SPEND an evening with the King at the Old Endeavour in Dover this weekend.

Cliff Castle is one of the UK's top Elvis Presley tribute artists and has delighted audiences young and old. Find out more and hear him sing online at [www.cliffcastle.co.uk](http://www.cliffcastle.co.uk).

Castle will be performing at the pub in London Road on Saturday. For more information about the venue, phone the pub on 01304 204417.

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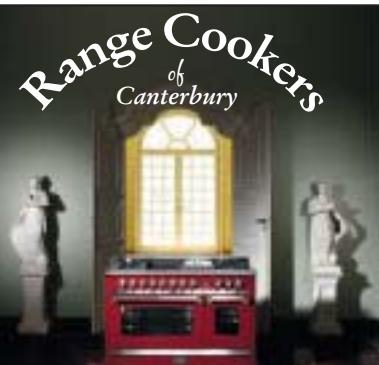
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**IN STORE****Ghostly signing of new Ancient Darkness book**

BEST-SELLING children's author Michelle Paver will launch the final book in her Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series this weekend.

She will attend a book-signing at Waterstone's, Bluewater, at noon on Sunday, when fans can buy her new novel, Ghost Hunter.

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**Natural Aussie skincare launches at Debenhams**

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# Farmhouse celebrates first birthday as Format returns

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

PARTY poppers, streamers and gifts at the ready, music fans – The Farmhouse is set to celebrate its first birthday later this month.

The Canterbury venue will turn one on Saturday, August 22, and has lined up one of the country's finest turntable connoisseurs in DJ Format to help set the anniversary proceedings off.

The Southampton-born DJ burst onto the hip hop scene six years ago with his critically-acclaimed debut release Music for the Mature B-Boy.

If you don't know the album, hunt a copy down. But before you do, make sure you take a peek at the video for Format's most famous hit, We Know Something You Don't Know, featuring Jurassic 5 MCs Chali 2na and Akil.

That's if fluffy breakdancing animals are your thing.

But back to the birthday bash.

The Farmhouse's Matt Gough said he was looking forward to the big night.

"The rather wonderful DJ Format was one of the best DJs we had at The Farmhouse during our first year so we're delighted to announce that he'll be bringing the dusty breaks, rare grooves, soul classics and the rawest of rock and r'n'b to the party for us.

"He's genuinely one of the nicest guys in hip hop, something of a British legend and rapidly becoming a Canterbury favourite after some scintillating performances both at Lounge On The Farm and 'The Farmhouse.'

Support on the night comes from



**BIRTHDAY GUESTS:** DJ Format, above, will be at the gig, while Casiokids, right, will be performing later this year

Comfyporn, DJ Shallow and Readybreak.

Farmhouse chiefs have wasted no time in booking up acts to perform during their second year of business, with the calendar up to Christmas already boasting a host of top music names.

These include Don Letts, The Dub Pistols, Casiokids, Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir and the James Taylor Quartet.

The birthday gig runs from 9pm to 2am. Entry costs £6. For more information and listings visit [www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk](http://www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk).



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## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

### WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

BBC One, 10.35pm, Monday

### THE TROUBLE WITH GIRLS

BBC Two

THERE are a lot of shows that have emulated the well-worn formula of Have I Got News For You.

You know the drill, three reasonably smart, funny people rib all and sundry for half an hour of easy watching.

Nevermind the Buzzcocks has ploughed the same furrow and there have been others such as Mock the Week and Channel 4's Jimmy Carr-fronted Eight Out of Ten Cats.

Both are decent enough shows, but occasionally veer into who can shout the loudest territory, which can get irritating.

Better than both those shows is Would I Lie to You?, which has returned for a new run.

Influenced as much by Call My Bluff as HIGNFY, this is smarter and less shouty than its two main rivals.

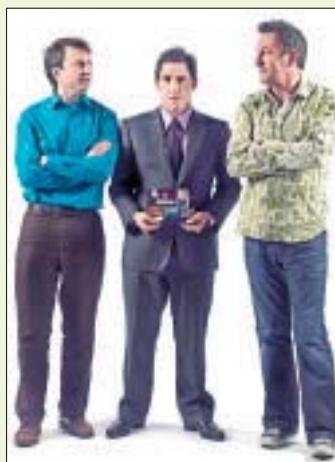
The panellists tell tall stories about their own lives with a few bona fide truths thrown in for good measure.

The opposing team must guess what is true and what is a load of old flannel and new host Rob Brydon, who has taken over from Angus Deayton, chips in with enough funnies of his own.

But it is David Mitchell who is the star of the show, as he is on most things he appears on.

His skew on the world, showcased to excellent effect in Peep Show, has something of Old Englishness about it that is very charming, very funny and very familiar to those of us who also feel exasperated and bewildered by the modern world.

LAST week's BBC Two documentary



**GAME'S UP:** Rob Brydon (centre) hosts Would I Lie to You? with David Mitchell and Lee Mack

The Trouble With Girls was probably the best documentary I've seen in years.

Charting the lives of three young Rochdale lasses struggling to make their way in life it was moving in parts and frustrating in others.

There were parts where you really started to feel sorry for the girls, who often seemed trapped by their own situations.

Two of them had their hearts set on military service, but were rejected by the Army because they suffered with cirrhosis.

However, for every thing that made you feel sorry for the girls, you could feel sympathy ebbing away when they announced they were pregnant yet again, after failing to use any contraception, only adding to their financial and housing woes.

This was quite hard to watch at times, but a real insight into the lives and the fate of so many of young people in this country today, nonetheless.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU'LL have to fill out a lot of paperwork if you're going to get a loan or refund. It's a bore, but that's the hurdle you have to jump. You might as well get it out of the way as soon as possible. A misunderstanding between you and an authority figure makes life confusing.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

IF you want to launch a business, team up with someone who has had lots of experience in this field. They have lots of great advice and plenty of potential packed tips for running a profitable venture. Don't tell colleagues about your plans or they'll start to resent you.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

ANXIETY over work could be getting you down. You need to find a creative and relaxing outlet. Taking a short trip to see a friend will also be a lot of fun. Trust your instincts when it comes to a female relative. This woman could use a little tender loving care and nurturing.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

### CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU may have to add to your qualifications to boost your professional prospects. This won't be an easy ride; your bosses and instructors will be very exacting. As far as love is concerned you're a little worried. The object of your affection is so desirable that it's hard to fight off rivals.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

### LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

KEEP your fears to yourself. If you need an outlet for pent up anxieties write them in a diary. Right now, you can't afford to let people see you sweat. A friend who is head over heels in love may keep breaking appointments. You've got to make them accountable for their behaviour.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

DEEP philosophical matters are weighing on your heart. You're tired of money being the driving force in your life. If you're deep in debt, find out how much you owe and figure out a plan for paying your bills. It may take a while, but at least you'll be working to change things for the better.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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# MONEY MATTERS



## Recession: Things are looking up

Inside your pull-out supplement

- Signs the recession is beginning to slow
- Why credit cards are an economic headache
- Have you been mis-sold a PPI policy?
- Research reveals shocking rise in fraud
- What one council is doing to help business
- Corporate retail property – the low-down
- Cashing in on your old gold
- A good time to buy a new car
- Recession-busting motoring
- Scrappage scheme goes full throttle
- Road tax: the best ways to save

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to download vouchers from our  
great savings booklets



**what's inside****Page 4-5**

With many of us suffering from reduced incomes and unemployment on the increase, we look at the new fear that credit-card debts could trigger more economic suffering

**Page 6-7**

With all the confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, we help you educate yourself on what it is, whether you need it, and how to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to

**Page 8**

Money fraud is at its highest level in decades. We discover how the recession has led to the financial crime rate almost doubling in a year in the South East

**Page 10-11**

Find out what one council is doing to help businesses with a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up grants

**Page 12**

David Garrard, associate director and retail negotiator working out of the Maidstone office of Christie + Co reveals why this

sector is less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the economy as the down-turn does its worst

**Pages 14-15**

When you see full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash. Take a look at the returns...

**Page 16**

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge when you drive away a new car

thanks to big discounts at the moment

**Page 17**

Downsizing to a more fuel and tax efficient car is just one way you can save money. Steve Loader gives more tips on cheaper motoring

**Page 18**

The Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car with talk of a top-up donation, so get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger

**Page 19**

Don't rush to change your car for one with less tax. There are other things to consider first...

**Essential guide to where you can save**

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■ Oliver Carpets Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £600

■ Maidstone Kia in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering dine in the Verve Grill and upgrade a 6oz fillet steak to an 8oz or a 10oz sirloin for the same price

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■ KOS is offering a Pulsar military style chronograph watch, save £20 with the offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Signs of economic life spotted

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the rise, but there are also a few signs that the economic situation may be on the turn – or at least it may not be getting worse at quite the same rate.

In this issue of Money Matters we hear from one expert on the retail sector who says many businesses are holding their own, and why the commercial property sector is still attracting plenty of buyers.

That's not to say that individuals and businesses aren't in need of some help, and in the coming pages there are details of

schemes offering assistance, and plenty of good advice to help you keep on top of your own financial affairs.

And to raise a smile during the summer months, visit vouchersforkent.co.uk where there are hundreds of money-saving offers waiting for you.

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By ALEX HOAD

THE number of failing businesses in the region has continued to rise, but the rate of increase has slowed considerably this quarter – leading to talk the recession may be bottoming-out.

A new report from business information provider Equifax showed that while year-on-year figures showed the number of businesses going under was up almost 40 per cent, the rate of increase from the first quarter to quarter two had almost come to a standstill.

Neil Munroe, External Affairs Director of Equifax, believes UK businesses may be starting to recover from the sharp downturn which started in the middle of 2008.

He said: "While the year-on-year figures are pretty stark this is not surprising – in quarter two last year the downturn had only just started to hit companies.

"But I believe it is actually more relevant to look at how businesses are faring quarter by quarter this year.

"Our figures show that overall there was only a 2.2 per cent increase in businesses going under in quarter two compared to quarter one, and in the South East there was a quarter-on-quarter rise of just 1.8 per cent."

Mr Munroe warned: "Undoubtedly the recession is still having an enormous impact on business fortunes with many organisations simply unable to survive against the onslaught of falling sales and restricted access to funding to cover the cash-flow gaps.

"But our figures seem to suggest that we could have hit the bottom by the time we reached the end of the second quarter and in some areas there is an improvement, albeit small."

He added: "Of course, the next question has to be whether we are going to see the sustained upturn of a V-shaped recession or



**ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY:**  
A new report shows UK businesses may be starting to recover from the sharp downturn which started in the middle of 2008

# Signs recession is beginning to slow

whether this is just a small pre-summer blip and failures increase again, more typical of W-shaped recession."

Equifax's Business Failures Report also showed the sectors hit the earliest and hardest in the recession appear to be starting to turn the corner.

Retail has shown the greatest improvement, with a near 12 per cent drop in failures quarter on quarter, and wholesale has also improved with a 5.1 per cent drop in businesses going under.

In construction a 4.1 per cent drop in failures seems to suggest the sector is also starting to

recover, while transport and communications saw a four per cent drop in failures from quarter one to quarter two.

The only sectors still struggling are services, with a near 11 per cent increase in failures quarter on quarter, and manufacturing, with a rise of almost three per cent.

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# Card debts set to cause even more financial headaches

By JEREMY GATES

WITH unemployment expected to top four million and many households already suffering from reduced income, there are fears that massive credit-card debts could trigger more economic turmoil.

Britain, where consumer debt in proportion to income has climbed above 170 per cent, is seen as more vulnerable to such a crisis than European countries and the United States, where the International Monetary Fund fears 14 per cent of consumer debt will turn sour.

The IMF believes consumer debt losses in Europe could hit £1.5bn – much of it in Britain.

A lot of this debt, such as sub-prime mortgages, was securitised – passed on to new

holders – and the Financial Times warned that the impact could extend beyond banks, possibly hitting insurance companies and pension funds.

Our plastic-fuelled spending spree is unravelling fast. Outstanding card debt tops £64 billion, but with average interest rates at 18 per cent – or 36 times current Bank base rate – that's a big strain on the 40 per cent of card-holders who pay interest on outstanding balances.

Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk believes that card companies may have kept their rates high in defence against the looming problems.

He said: "If the debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent. I see big write-offs coming, as an increasing trend."

Over two years, the noose has slowly drawn tighter on those who have overspent. The old trick – keep switching debt to new cards with 0 per cent balance transfers – is harder to pull off as providers tighten terms.

Capital One, a leading provider, has withdrawn 0 per cent balance transfers altogether. Barclaycard's 0 per cent offer on balance



MOUNTING DEBT: If people's debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent

transfers is down from 14 months to 12 and other providers – including Royal Bank of Scotland and its brands, and HSBC – restrict balance transfers to existing customers.

"Nearby everybody who could qualify for Virgin Money's 0 per cent balance transfer for 16 months has probably got it by now," Hagger says. "It's been the first port of call for a long time."

Hagger notes that a few products remain for clients with good credit records: Santander's 0 per cent balance transfers runs for 15 months, while two others offer 0 per cent for 13 months – Halifax Mastercard and BT Visa Credit Card.

Daniella Lipszyc, solicitor and director at Ultimate Law, which advises card-holders in trouble, fears that some consumers face 50 years of suffocating debt.

"Introductory offers, such as 0 per cent balance transfers and 0 per cent APR for the first few months, get consumers signed up," she says.

"Many don't realise that once the initial period of the agreement ends, rates can rocket and interest payments can get out of hand."

"It takes almost 50 years to clear a debt of £5,000 by making the minimum repayment each month, on a typical APR of 16.9 per cent. Over that time, you'll pay a staggering £10,773.93 in interest."

Lipszyc argues that no

signed and properly executed agreements were completed for many new cards. Some lenders see this will cause problems if cases go to court and are hiring debt collectors to pressure clients at home and at work.

"One of my clients has card debts of more than £150,000, but £10,000 is enough to get many into trouble," she says.

Card providers, for their part, are also under pressure: they have lost rich pickings from the sale of Payment Protection Insurance with cards due to new regulations, and have seen penalty charges, which they levy on late payers, cut by Government action.

### Spending power

But they can always raise rates. Lipszyc believes card providers have "terrific free-doms" despite the new controls.

"My husband had an AMEX card charging 19.6 per cent which jumped to 26 per cent – a 33 per cent rise – a few days after Bank base rate hit 0.5 per cent," she says.

As problems deepen, Lipszyc thinks providers may accept deals – perhaps accepting a portion of a £10,000 debt – to tidy the books.

But the providers' decision to raise the spending limit for many

customers in recent months – without being asked to do so – could backfire badly.

Price-comparison service uSwitch.com reckons 5.7 million people received a boost to their credit-card limit in the

last year without being told about it, giving an average £1,538 per person for an extra £8.8bn of spending power.

"In the current climate, you could be fooled into thinking that increasing spending limits is a good thing as it stops people going over the limit and incurring extra charges," says uSwitch's Louise Bond.

"However, the issue is far more complicated. Providers are taking away consumer choice by throwing extra credit at people without their consent."

"Unless you regularly pay off your credit card bill in full, keeping high levels of debt on interest-bearing credit cards isn't advisable. It's an expensive form of borrowing."

Peter Harrison, credit-card specialist at Moneysupermarket.com, says consumers must be aware of different rates charged on balance transfers and new purchases. A tempting 0 per cent on balance transfers might run for 12 months, while new purchases incur interest charges after three months.

Both Nationwide and SAGA cards, he says, offer a 'positive hierarchy' of repayment – money paid back each month cuts debt attracting the highest rate of interest.

"The fact is that many people who can't repay debts intend to keep paying the minimum monthly sum required – usually one per cent to five per cent of outstanding balance – in the hope something turns up," he says.

"It isn't really the best way forward. If you don't begin to start paying debts off, lenders may be entitled to increase rates because of higher risk."

If you fear your card debts are out of control, the experts urge you to seek help – either from the card provider, or a debt advisor.

"The advantage of admitting problems is that the card provider is less likely to increase rates while the customer tries to sort things out," says Harrison.

"Those who bury their head in the sand to avoid the problem could be most at risk of losing their homes in the months ahead."

## Essential guide to where you can save

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- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory pub
- JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care, petrol or diesel £109.
- Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs
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CARD CHAOS: Outstanding card debt tops £64 billion in the UK

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# Keeping your PPI

## If you think you have been mis-sold a policy, you can claim compensation. Find out how...

THERE has been much confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, and the fact is that everyone needs to educate themselves on what it is and whether you need it, to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to.

If you think your policy has been mis-sold then there are steps you can take to ensure you get the compensation you deserve.

Here **Martyn Paddon**, senior practice manager at Bromley-based MTA Solicitors, dispels some of the myths about PPI.

**WHAT IS PPI?**  
There are around 20 million PPI policies in the UK, generating over £5 billion a year for the companies involved. The policies cover repayments in the event that you are made redundant or unable to work due to illness or injury.

In many cases the policies are automatically added to a loan agreement regardless of whether the policy holder has requested one, and can increase the amount repayable by thousands of pounds over the life of the loan.

Consumers are often unaware of this taking place and many people fall outside of the bracket for which the policy applies. For example if you are retired, self-employed or not reliant on an income, you may not need or benefit from PPI as for a large part these policies cover you if you are employed and lose your job through redundancy.

When you take out a loan there are strict laws dictating how the loan is sold to you, which are there to protect you from unfair practices. The selling of PPI policies is regulated and falls within the Consumer Credit Act, which can be complex, so it is the lender who has to ensure that policies are sold correctly.

If the correct process has not been adhered to the PPI policy could be mis-sold and you may be entitled to a refund of the policy, plus interest. Also many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it.

The financial regulator has been fining PPI companies for "not treating customers fairly", plus the Competition Commission has investigated the market and has placed a number of demands on lenders to curb these unscrupulous practices. But this comes as little relief to those consumers who have already been mis-sold PPI.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOUR POLICY HAS BEEN MIS-SOLD**

There are hundreds of thousands of potential mis-sold policies out there and it is possi-

ble to seek compensation on mis-sold PPI going back six years. So what are the options if you think you may have been a victim of mis-selling?

The biggest hurdle is knowing whether you've been mis-sold PPI in the first place. You may have taken out loans in the past and have no knowledge of whether the lender has even sold you PPI, as they may have wrapped this into the re-payment figure without you even realising. Often this can be ascertained by examining your loan documents carefully.

Many people embark on their own battle to try and recoup the money they have already paid on mis-sold insurance but lenders can drag their heels, only paying out the minimum (with no interest), or simply refusing to pay out at all. People then give up, thinking this is the maximum to be repaid, or that there isn't a case to be won. However getting some professional legal support at this stage would increase the likelihood that they would receive a lot more.

Choosing the services of claims management companies, who now offer PPI reclaiming services, needs to be thoroughly investigated before proceeding. Many of these companies have simply jumped on the bandwagon without the expertise and it's probably best to tread cautiously. Some charge an upfront fee which should not be necessary.

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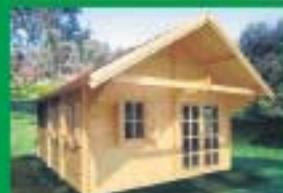
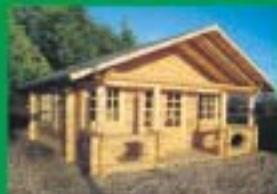
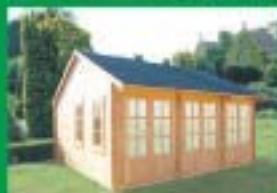
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# on the facts



**UNSCRUPULOUS PRACTICES:** many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it

Seeking legal advice may be a more viable option, as most solicitors will charge on a 'no win no fee' basis.

By seeking professional legal advice, you stand a better chance of proving to the lender that the PPI policy has been mis-sold and obtaining proper compensation.

#### CHOOSE THE RIGHT POLICY FOR YOU

Consumers do need to understand this type of Payment Protection Insurance,

ensure they need it and take on the responsibility to shop around. You need to take out insurance that's suitable for you and ensure the lender is giving you options.

You should be very wary if the insurance policy is tied-in to you receiving a loan.

Despite all the negativity around PPI, it is a very valid insurance if sold correctly, and should you need to make a claim, can mean the difference between losing everything and retaining your lifestyle.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Money fraud figures double in South East

By ALEX HOAD

BIG-MONEY fraud is at its highest level in decades and has almost doubled in a year in the South East.

The news comes from research by global financial powerhouse KPMG Forensic, which also revealed more than half the fraud in the UK by value takes place in the region.

More than 160 cases of serious fraud with charges of over £100,000 came before the courts in the first half of the year – the highest number in any six-month period since KPMG launched its fraud barometer 21 years ago.

The South East remains the UK's fraud hotspot, with 63 serious frauds taking place in the first six months of the year – up from 38 in the same period in 2008.

The value of the frauds was more than £350m – more than half of the UK's overall total.

Among the Kent cases were an Ightham man who claimed he was a land developer earning £90,000 a year to obtain two false mortgages worth £346,000.

A Swanley mechanic was implicated in a £38m stolen car ring, while two employees of a Kent insurer lodged bogus claims to defraud their employer of £462,000.

Investors were the biggest victims, losing £320m – mainly to professional gangs, which accounted for £450m of fraud nationwide.

Company managers were also responsible for defrauding their employers of £150m in 32 cases throughout the UK.



**DODGY DEALS:** Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in bogus cooked-up investment schemes

Over a quarter of cases, worth £111m, were committed against financial institutions.

Commenting on the figures, Hitesh Patel, partner at KPMG Forensic, said: "These figures are bad, but the worst is yet to come."

"It will be a number of years before the impact of the recession fully feeds through into the fraud statistics."

"Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in cooked-up investment schemes."

"Companies too remain vulnerable to the threat within – their staff – as evidenced by the £150m of fraud that managers have been tried for in the last six months alone."

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Getting Medway back in business

## New council schemes will help economic growth

BY ALEX HOAD

WHILE the recession continues to bite across the country, individuals and businesses in Medway will soon be offered even more help to beat it.

The local council has developed a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up grants.

These measures are designed to show support for local business start-up and growth as well as workforce development.

The measures are also targeted at the priorities identified in the council's new draft Economic Development Strategy.

Portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth Cllr Jane Chitty said: "Combating the recession is high on Medway Council's agenda and we are committed to doing everything we can to help business growth and job creation at a local level."

"Medway has built a very strong business sector, ranging from engineering and manufacturing to service industries and it is imperative that we build on this very sound foundation.

"These 10 counter-recessionary measures show our commitment as a council to support local residents and businesses."

### The 10 measures are:

- **Micro-enterprise graduate work placement scheme:** It is important that students see Medway as a place to utilise their qualifications and skills.

This scheme will provide micro-businesses in Medway with access to talented local graduates – allowing graduates to gain valuable work experience and providing businesses with valuable skills. This scheme will start in the autumn.

- **Business start-up grants programme:** These will be grants available up to a maximum of £1,000, which will help budding entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses. Further information on this scheme will be available shortly and the scheme will begin in September.

- **Partners for Growth (PfG) interest-free loan scheme:** Previously, businesses wanting

to apply for the scheme had to have a bank loan in place before they were eligible. However, many small and medium-sized companies in Medway have found it difficult getting extra finance from banks due to the current recession. In answer to this, Medway Council has relaxed the criteria of the scheme and companies no longer need to have a bank loan to apply.

- **Medway Retail Conference and launch of Retail Champions scheme:** On October 1, the Medway Retail Conference will mark the launch of the Retail Champions' scheme,

which takes place at the St George's Centre in Chatham Maritime. It aims to support Medway's retail businesses by advising about local workforce training and business support programmes, covering aspects such as customer service skills, effective business development and marketing.

- **Employ Medway:** Starting in August, Employ Medway will focus on those people who are recently unemployed or have been made redundant. Employ Medway advisors will work with clients to enable them to review their options, look at addressing their training

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and skills needs and further provide support in seeking alternative local employment. A dedicated advice centre will open next month in Chatham High Street.

• **Managed workspace:** Medway Council has more than 100 business units at affordable rents across three sites, including the newly opened Innovation Centre which provides high quality business space tailored for innovative, ambitious and dynamic businesses. All tenants receive personalised business advice and support at all of the council's managed workspace sites. The council has vacant premises ready and available to businesses with aspirations for growth.

• **Transmanche Enterprise Network:** An advice service to assist businesses to find new markets on the other side of the Channel.

• **Eco-Advantage Scheme:** A training and development programme for local businesses advising them how they can respond to the challenge of climate change while also reducing costs.

This scheme will become operational in the autumn.

• **Creative Industries – business support and networking:**

Support for the growth and development of Medway's creative businesses through the appointment of a dedicated business support officer.

cer. This role will also include implementing initiatives that will encourage networking between creative businesses as well as business partnerships with other complementary sectors, such as manufacturing. Medway Council hopes to recruit for this position in the autumn.

• **Medway apprenticeships scheme in partnership with local training providers:** The development of a new local apprenticeship scheme to provide valuable work experience to young people aged from 16 to 24. Opportunities will include apprenticeships within the council as well as with private sector contractors to the council. This scheme will start in October.

For more information email the business support team at [business.support@medway.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@medway.gov.uk).



**PLANTING IDEAS:**  
New council measures are designed to show support for local business start-up and growth as well as workforce development

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Retailing in the recession

**David Garrard**, associate director and retail negotiator working at the Maidstone office of Christie + Co, shares his thoughts on the corporate retail property sector in the South East

BUSINESSES in the retail sector, be it convenience store, off-licence, forecourt or newsagent, are certainly not immune to the global financial crisis we currently find ourselves dealing with, but are proving less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the retail market.

Although average property values in the retail sector fell across the UK in 2008, they did so at a much more modest rate than those reported in other business property sectors, for example what pubs and hotels witnessed.

This trend has been maintained across the South East retail market over the last six months, demonstrating the sector's resilience and showing that levels of confidence remain high amongst established operators and first-time buyers.

Many business owners we talk to indicate that turnovers have remained steady, although there has been some pressure on margins, while some have witnessed an increase in turnover. Despite all the economic pressures, it should be remembered that convenience stores, etc, generally provide staple products which consumers buy on a regular basis.

The fact that transactional levels have remained fairly stable also shows that independent operators clearly continue to believe in their ability to build successful local retail businesses.

We are also seeing that buyers with commercial or residential portfolios are taking a long-term view of their assets in the hope they rebuild their value— they are also looking for cash-generating businesses. These predominantly cash-rich buyers, who have been sitting on the sidelines for the last eight months, have steadily come back into the market looking for opportunities where they can add value.

With banks becoming increasingly stringent regarding their lending criteria, established local operators are also taking advantage of a reduction in competition from national operators and declines in values, to enhance their estates. The banks are seemingly more willing to back those with existing successful operations.

An operator's ability to make his store a vital part of the local community has never been more important. The economic slowdown has provided switched-on retailers, across all our sectors, with opportunities to develop their operations. Well-run businesses, which provide a valuable offer to their local communities — including good product availability and a speedy service with a personal touch — can



RETAIL NEGOTIATOR: David Garrard

still generate sales, especially as consumers cut down on luxury items and concentrate on necessities.

The first half of the year has continued to highlight the fact that people's appetite for this ever-changing market remains strong. Despite the doom and gloom being propagated by national media regarding the commercial property market at present, there are still plenty of people looking to buy both freehold and leasehold opportunities in the retail sector.

The last six months has also highlighted that it is imperative for businesses and would-be buyers to seek professional, up-to-the-minute advice, whether you are selling or valuing a property.

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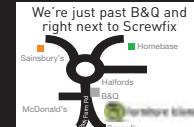
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By JEREMY GATES

WHEN full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash.

Strictly speaking, the claim isn't true. Gold is down about 18 per cent on the £700 level seen in February, while the dollar price is down from 1,006 to 955 in the same period. But this is unlikely to deter sellers who need cash.

Earlier this year, gold achieved its highest-ever price against sterling, the euro, the Swiss franc and the dollar in Canada, Australia and New Zealand – indeed just about everywhere except for the Japanese yen and the US dollar.

After years of steely jewellers looking dismissively at a well-worn keepsake and advising desperate owners not to waste their time, the internet is creating a world where it is much easier to turn surplus items into cash.

With British Government debt soaring towards a trillion pounds, Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, the UK's leading online service for gold bullion investment, reckons the craze for turning valuable metals into cash may be only just beginning.

"When Cash4Gold, a big American company, gets going in Britain, you could see quite an impact on this business," he says.

"These boys are big enough to take a two-minute advertisement in the Superbowl. A significant amount of the booming level of scrap-gold supply may be down to the model they've established."

"Theirs is an impressive business model: heavy advertising, an efficient collection/distribution network and a cheque rapidly dispatched for vendors."

Website CashYourGoldNow.co.uk, which promises a "fast, efficient and very discreet"

# Get ready for the gold rush

service, is likely to feel the draught as the Americans arrive.

Its selling angle is that any unwanted old jewellery can be turned into instant cash for a holiday, a new outfit, bills or a special occasion.

The argument is a timely one because gold has been a relatively steady store of value through 18 months of financial turmoil which has wiped nearly £9 trillion off global share values. Most other investments, apart from US Treasury bonds, have headed south.

## Jewellery

Ash says the "scrap side" of gold sales boomed globally in the first quarter of 2009, with a total value of 500-1,000 metric tonnes sold by owners seeking cash.

If private sales continued at levels seen earlier this year, the scrap side could soon generate more gold than the 2,500 tonnes annually produced by commercial mines.

"Heavy selling by private owners in Asia and the Far East is normal and what you would expect," Ash says.

"There is no banking network in rural India, so farmers turn profits into gold, not rupees, and then sell heavy 'investment jewellery' for cash in the planting season.

"What's new is the volume of old jewellery coming out of Western households. It is being sold off in greater volumes than at any time since the recession of 1979-81."

However, Ash thinks second-quarter sales

might actually fall: gold prices tend to drift in summer, and sales have attracted less media coverage lately.

It is also possible, he thinks, that households have dumped items they thought about selling for years. Websites offer easier access to buyers, and a cleaner sale.

But are people selling too cheaply?

Krista Waddell at Ounces to Pounds, which organises 'Gold Parties', claims her 'tupperware-style' events in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Scotland pay out £50,000 per week.

"Cash4Gold is short-changing Britain," she claims. "Its margin is chewed away on TV advertising and profit, and not put in the pockets of British consumers."

"With our parties, people see what they are getting, without delay. They get a good price there and then for unwanted gold, platinum and silver. No waiting, no hassle."

Waddell says her customers, mainly 45-plus and mostly women, are not turning valuables into cash to pay the rent.

"They have stuff sitting around and no other sales outlet, and they won't use pawnbrokers," she says.

"Often, they bought items in the 1980s when gold was a third of the price it is today. If they sell today at 50 per cent of value, they still make money. It's a fun evening, and it's an unusual sale which puts cash in your pocket!"

But even these sellers may regret their

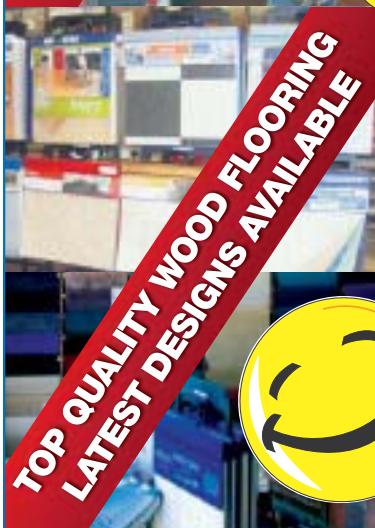
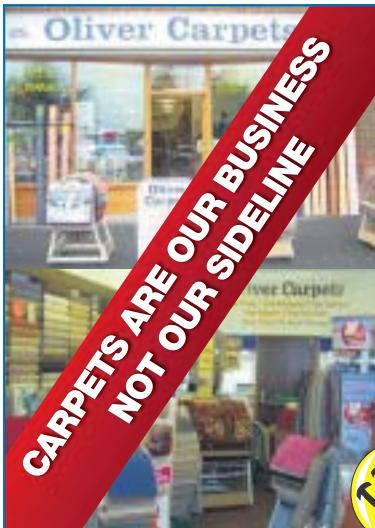
## Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering goose down pillows from £24.99 inc p&p, save £125 on RRP
- Oliver Carpets is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250
- Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels
- KOS is offering Swarovski Crystals Double Heart Pendant £29.99
- Colgate Doors in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off selected garage doors
- Avinco in Ramsgate is offering free consultation

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**MONEY MAKER:** Old jewellery can be turned into instant cash for a holiday, a new outfit, bills or a special occasion



actions later, say lenders who accept your valuables as security for a loan and return them when the loan is redeemed.

Paul Aitken at leading online asset lender Borro.com says he has been following this market closely since it began in the United States 18 months ago.

"Too many people accept offers of 20-30 pence in the pound. Those who see jewellery as a way of getting money should consider all other options first."

"We can usually lend more money than they will get from a sale. They can come back, perhaps within two months, and have their goods back after we deduct interest."

"In close to 90 per cent of cases we take on, the customer gets back whatever item they have pledged. But this is a solution to short-term money problems, not long-term ones."

Aitken says that when such artifacts are melted down for their precious metals, any intrinsic value, both in workmanship and sentiment, is destroyed.

"If you need money in a hurry, don't sell under distress at a gold party because you are

unlikely to get the best price."

Aitken says 'asset lending' is much easier since the internet reduced the need to find a pawnbroker: just go online, find out what an item is worth, send it off in a secure envelope and the cash is ready in 24 hours.

However, Borro charges four per cent a month on a loan of £1,000. Over six months, a £1,000 loan costs £300 interest.

Of course, any owner of valuable goods should think carefully before they sell.

Mark Gettinby, director of Intune, the financial services arm of Help The Aged, says it is important to be aware of security as you will be dealing with people you don't know.

If selling goods online, never give out bank details and make sure you wait for any cheques to clear before parting with the goods," he advises.

"If people come to your house to pick up items, arrange a time when you are not alone. And if you're not selling goods through an auction marketplace, it's always worth getting a second opinion on the price offered to verify you're getting the best possible price."

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Yourkenttv presenter Julie Maddocks discovers how changing her driving habits could save her money

## Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering rechargeable micro luggage scales for £19.99
- Hobbs Parker in Ashford is offering good quality second hand cars from £500
- Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45
- Rochester Court Kitchens is offering 20 per cent off solid wood kitchens
- KOS is offering a Garden Sonic Blaster for £29.99
- Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all parts and accessories

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

BY STEVE LOADER

### BUY a car in a recession?

It sounds mad, but there might never be a better time for some of us.

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge on a new car thanks to big discounts at the moment.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme (see later story), but dealers have been knocking cash off cars for months – whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade or not.

There are other deals that can be factored in too, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any add-ons you fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying an unpopular engine or trim combination or, worse, a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago.

After all, you don't want to trade your old gas guzzler for another just as thirsty or likely to depreciate badly.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars always devalue unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for ditching something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, review your part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out the running costs for the next three years – they might be much less



WISE BUY: Chevrolet's ultra-new Cruze (above) and the versatile Nissan Qashqai (left) are two models to tempt you if you decide to raid those savings accounts

the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version.

The eco supermini might save £105 road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more and you might not think the driving experience is worth paying extra for either.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; the fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on their heavier diesel equivalents.

## REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

### 1 A brand new 59 Reg Picanto 5dr from £4,495.\*

The Government and Kia will give you £2,000 towards a lovely new Picanto when you scrap your old car. Mr Darling, we salute you.

### 2 Group 2 insurance, just £35 road tax.

Combine that with incredible fuel efficiency of up to 57.6 mpg and you've got very low running costs indeed. Brilliant.

### 3 The Government giving away money.

Okay, so it's the same as reason one, but it's so good we couldn't let it slide. Just hurry, before they change their minds.

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BY STEVE LOADER

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear – a moped or motorcycle might be a better option.

If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal. Feather the throttle at cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and

# Smarter driving for better saving



**SENSIBLE CHOICE:** Downsizing to modern cars like the Peugeot 107 city car (right) or affordable Kia Ceed family hatch – with a seven-year warranty – can save money, but sensible driving can knock even more off your motoring bill

wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing

and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkentv.co.uk/community>.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7000

■ Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air con

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone just £24.99 save £20

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# Scrapheap banger is motoring ahead

AFTER a shaky start, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car.

It has been so successful that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

So, while there is some talk of a top-up donation, get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappoint-

BY STEVE LOADER

ment that they would be expected to contribute half of each £2,000 Government Scrappage grant and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and be tempted to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the

exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.



**SALES BOOST:** The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has boosted sales of newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and ultra-frugal Hyundai i10 (right)

## Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering personalised Weekender Bags for £29.99
- Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September
- Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99
- Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
- Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items
- Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub
- Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher
- Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10 series Plasma when you trade in your old TV
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for £79.95+vat

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**IN DEMAND:** Small hatchbacks like the frugal Mazda2 (far right), chic Renault Clio and big-selling Vauxhall Corsa (below) are in demand, helped by low running costs including low road tax bills



# Pros and cons of tax savings

BY STEVE LOADER

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

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Band G (151-160g/km) - £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) - £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) - £215
Band L (226-255g/km) - £405
Band M (255g/km plus) - £405

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.



Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care petrol or diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving more than 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster glare shields from £14.99

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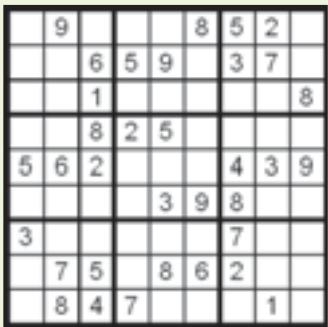
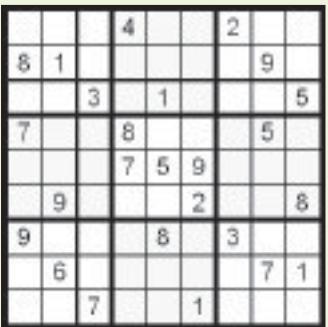
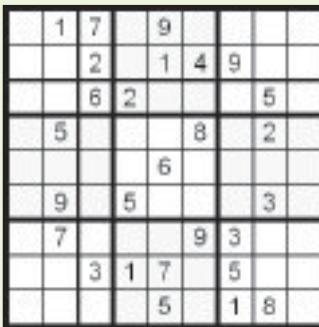
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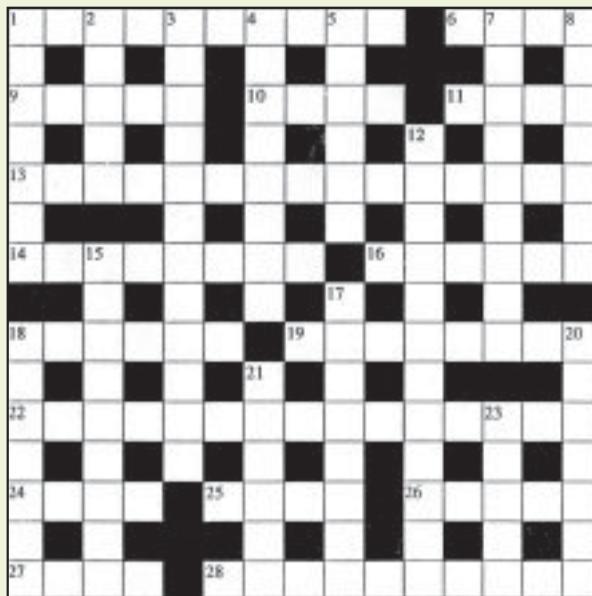
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

**EASY****MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC CLUES****ACROSS**

1 US canteens potentially providing nourishment (10)  
 6 In the bag Edam had matured (4)  
 9 A detective accepting last letter from old Mexican (5)  
 10 Trip from square belonging to us (4)  
 11 Jane produced a girl (4)  
 13 Itchy meaty snack? (4,11)  
 14 Lifted forest timber (8)  
 16 Before youth leader found abbey (6)  
 18 End that is for footballer (6)  
 19 Be about to have the Spanish cooked meat included with white sauce (8)  
 22 Old scoundrel running sporting events (9,6)  
 24 Eccentric left with nothing on (4)  
 25 Part of eye, part mauve always (4)  
 26 Doctor behind with payment (5)  
 27 Idolise Dorothy having energy (4)  
 28 Suspect work on bent in disrepair (6-4)

**DOWN**

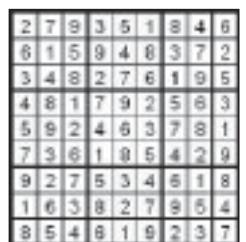
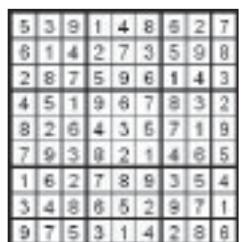
1 Person photographing fish (7)  
 2 Arty's struggling with woodland deity (5)  
 3 Too much of a load to bear (6,6)  
 4 In front turning into rear (8)  
 5 Surly sort of curtsey (6)  
 7 Colourful place for actors offstage? (9)  
 8 Powerhouse? (7)  
 12 Pipe officer (12)  
 15 Placed wider apart while in a dazed state (6,3)  
 17 Pass football to defender and get this response? (8)  
 18 Looked with amazement at remarkable gold egg (7)  
 20 Illuminate length I removed (7)  
 21 Case of the shakes (6)  
 23 I am past the mature stage (5)

**SCRIBBLE HERE****QUICK CLUES****ACROSS**

1 SE African country (10)  
 6 Bug (4)  
 9 Feelings experienced (5)  
 10 Chrysalis (4)  
 11 Go round and round (4)  
 13 Culpability (15)  
 14 Raised in relief (8)  
 16 Harsh (6)  
 18 New (6)  
 19 Mournful (8)  
 22 Building materials (6-3-6)  
 24 Farewell (2-2)  
 25 Rouse (4)  
 26 Tight (5)  
 27 Social class (4)  
 28 Dutifully (10)

**DOWN**

1 Mobile (7)  
 2 Striped mammal (5)  
 3 Skilful act (12)  
 4 Indecent (8)  
 5 Arrogant (6)  
 7 Meaningless exclamation (9)  
 8 Fixed attitude (7)  
 12 Drink excessively (3,3,6)  
 15 Racket sport (9)  
 17 Shook (8)  
 18 Gangster (7)  
 20 Robbery (7)  
 21 Of Cambridge (6)  
 23 Tinge (5)

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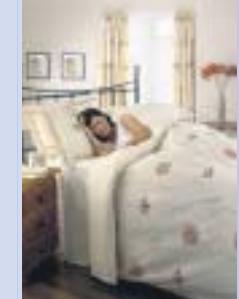
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# Soak up Brittany's Gallic charm

■ BY DAVE MARK

**CHATEAU** des Ormes offers something-for-everyone holidays.

The 250-acre parkland and forest site, about 15 miles inland from Mont-Saint-Michel, has enough activities to keep the whole family busy and out of sight without ever venturing into the rest of France.

It's visually rather impressive. Spreading outwards from a sublime, centuries-old château, the landscaped forests and parks somehow manage to retain a remote, rural, almost pastoral quality despite being close enough together to preserve a sense of community and neighbourliness.

In this self-contained, almost exclusively English little world, you have everything from paintballing to pony trekking, pedalos to pitch-and-putt. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools have slides, waterfalls, lazy-rivers and all you could ask for, except maybe a place to swim.

While some activities are free, plenty are not. And the ones that aren't are the ones your nippers will want to try.

The aerial circuit of zip wires and wire walks, for example, looked terrific fun, but at around £15 a head, it had to be. The reps were rather good, however, and not too many people laughed when a pensioner from South Yorkshire clattered into a tree.

For our late August stay, the weather was nothing special. When it rained, it really rained, and drying damp clothes in a mobile home isn't easy, although that was our only complaint about the roomy four-person 'Villagrand' accommodation. Its two decent-sized bedrooms book-ended a comfortable kitchen-cum-dining room, and the two bathrooms were a godsend.



**HIGH POINT:** The magnificent Mont-Saint-Michel off the coast of Normandy is a must-see on any trip to the region

Like all deluded families, we'd promised to take the self-catering thing seriously and live on a budget. But the seafood was one of the main reasons for coming to this part of the world, so we went a tad mad on mussels.

If we did want to knock up a home-cooked feast, an on-site shop had all we needed, though the area had a wasp problem at the time of our visit and the bakery buzzed with unwelcome visitors.

As ever with Brits abroad, the campsite truly came alive at night. But the bars weren't too rowdy or too expensive, and were nicely packed with families playing cards, watching sport on the big screen or knocking back a drink or two until the disco opened and the teenagers could go off to enjoy themselves without much supervision.

The jewel in the area's crown was, for us, the gorgeous little town of Dinan – a little-known medieval citadel with 13th-century ramparts and 15th-century half-timbered houses. My four-year old, Elora, called it "the olden days" and she wasn't far wrong.

But for retail therapy, the market at Dinard takes some beating. Whether it be textiles,

seafood or just enough clothes to start a shop, stalls stretch as far as the eye can see. It's ringed by endless coffee shops and bars, where the waiters have no objection to you ordering a sit-down coffee while you pull a baguette from your shopping bag and have a munch.

For seafood, the harbour town of Cancale can't be beaten.

The platter at one of the many blue-and-white-painted seafront restaurants where we ate was extraordinarily fresh, with local oysters big enough to be eaten with knife and fork.

For wow-factor, the best came last: Mont-Saint-Michel is surely one of the great wonders of the world.

Like a snowglobe without the glass, this exquisite church sits atop a rocky island approximately one kilometre off the coast of Normandy. Accessible by foot only during a gap in the tides, this extraordinary commune of narrow streets with tiny shops and restaurants feels like a filmset.

All in all, we spent more than we planned, ate more than we anticipated, and had much more fun than we expected.

## FACT FILE: BRITTANY

Time difference	+ One hour (GMT)
Regional capital	Nantes
Language	French, Breton, Gallo
Population	4,400,000
Currency	£1 = 1.16 Euros
Religion	Catholic
Climate	Temperate

## Travel details

Dave Mark was a guest of Keycamp, which offers seven nights' self-catering at May half-term 2010 in a Supernova mobile home for two adults and up to four children at Château des Ormes in Dol-de-Bretagne, from £383 including Dover-Calais ferry crossings, if booked by September 30.

Limited availability remains this year in August and September in a mobile home from £472 per week. Five-night tent stays in September start at £2150.

Keycamp reservations: 0844 406 0319 and [www.keycamp.co.uk](http://www.keycamp.co.uk).



**BIG SPLASH:** A pool at Château des Ormes

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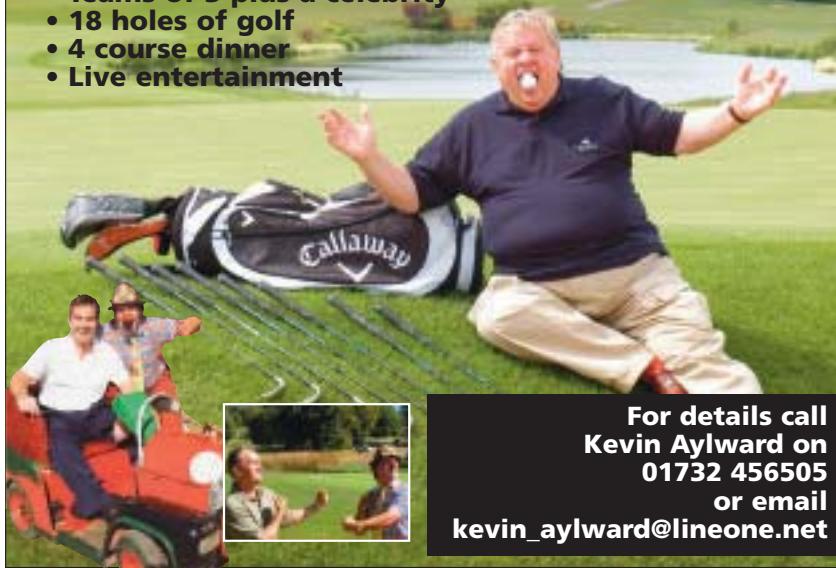
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### The Sassy Seaside Show

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### Balkan, Bar, Burlesque

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## WOMEN seeking men

### LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Young lady, 20, enjoys meals out, cinema and socialising with friends. WLTM a man, 20-30, with similar interests. Eastbourne Box 452427

### A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft5, slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing out and cosy nights in with genuine man. Box 453269

### MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 44694

### NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

### YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTM white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 883431

### GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

### SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

### IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

### HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

### A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

### GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, wltm similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

### FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 447595

### SOULD GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

### HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5ft4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 808734

### SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

### PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374

### STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair, enjoys swimming and input looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

### SOMETHING LASTING

Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Hastings Box 455221

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**YOUNG-AT-HEART**  
Attractive 30 yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curly physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE**

Lovely, glossy Brunette, 39 yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 4425106

**SMILE!**

Looking for a fun-loving guy for a LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental nurse, easy to get on with, always up for fun times. Sittingbourne Box 454827

**THE WIT TO WOO!**

Kent female, 40, 5ft7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeking a loyal, caring male for friendship & more. Box 452862

**BETWEEN US**

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?**

Shy but confident-once-known female, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopefully more later on. Box 488900

**COME ON DOWN!**

Honest, bubbly female, 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeking a honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

**RELIGHT MY FIRE**

Young professional widow, 46, own home, tall, attractive, green eyes/hair, enjoys all the good things in life. Looking for a fun-loving romantic guy. Box 876575

**HELLO EVERYONE!**

Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTM a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seafood Box 454569

**ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE**

Hello I'm Nikki, 41 yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

**LOVE IS ALL AROUND**

Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

**HELLO EVERYONE!**

Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTM a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seafood Box 454569

**ACTIVE TYPE**

Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, wltm mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451819

**LET'S DATE!**

Hard-working woman, 42, WLTM a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327

**SOUND GOOD?**

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?**

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

**BELLA ISABEL**

Lovely, fun and caring Brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTM a gent to socialise with. Box 878250

**YOU NEVER KNOW**

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, likes cars, reading, pub, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

**BLONDE AMBITION**

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopefully happiness - no time wasters! Box 808053

**A SOUL MATE**

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066

**ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!**

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

**PERFECT MATCH**

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374

**TO THE STARS**

Woman with a great sense of humour, I'm 40, and I like going out, astrology, writing, and socialising. How about you? Kent area. Box 453877

**SOMETHING LASTING**

Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Hastings Box 455221

**BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER**  
Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, dancing, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 414156

**TLC ON CALL FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!**

Lovely, glossy Brunette, 39 yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 4425106

**STARTING OVER**

Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown hair, eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, sports, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 880280

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL**

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 871700

**MISS THIS MISS OUT**

Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5ft6, love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, wltm like-minded guy, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 458935

**LOVELY BUBBLY**

Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine male, 45-55, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulate conversations and fun. Box 452311

**COULD IT BE YOU?**

I'm 44, 5ft6, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for a male for friendship and hopefully more. Box 447100

**COME ON DOWN!**

Honest, bubbly female, 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeking a male for friendship and hopefully more. Box 453832

**BRING ME TO LIFE**

Lighthearted female, 42, 5ft2, medium build, likes swimming, animals, cinema, walks, keeps fit, seeking a male for friendship and hopefully more. Box 453832

**HAVE MUCH TO OFFER**

23yr old guy, 6ft, medium build, dark hair and blue eyes, enjoys pubs, cinema, walks, keeps fit, seeking a male for friendship and hopefully more. Box 893423

**ONE STEP CLOSER**

Truly mad, 43, 5ft8, brown hair/eyes, seeks a like-minded woman, enjoys most things, seeks loving woman. Brighton Box 455722

**THE FOOD OF LOVE?**

Fun-loving, honest male, 24, 6ft", dark blonde, hazel eyes, cuddly, GSOH, seeks like-minded woman, stocky with bouncy belly! Hailsham. Box 449583

**TIME TOGETHER**

Out going, sporty, 48 yr old guy, 6ft, blue eyes, medium build, seeks similar female, for fun times. Box 749398

**HAVE MUCH TO OFFER**

23yr old male, 6ft, medium build, dark hair/blue eyes, enjoys most things, seeks a like-minded woman. Brighton Box 445561

**CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN**

Hastings chap, 27, 6ft3, shy, active, I like diving, rock climbing and art. Would like to meet someone to have fun with. Box 455815

**MEANT TO BE, YOU AND ME?**

Nice looking female, 50, looking for nice looking, solvent male, 45-50, for friendship and leading to a LTR. Box 455815

**I'M THE ONE!**

Kind, generous and caring blonde, 31, from Folkestone, 6ft4, large build, blue eyes, enjoys socialising, cinema, eatings out, sport, seeking a like-minded girl for friendship. Box 455527

**LONG-TERM THING**

Passionate male, 33, GSOH, likes cycling, stay fit, travel, holidays and music, sees lady to socialise with and take on dates. Box 455801

**LOVE ME TENDER**

Fun-loving honest guy , 34, 5ft11, brown hair/eyes, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe more. Hastings Box 446200

**TRUE LOVE**

Fit and good-looking male, 44, 5ft8, dark hair/eyes, own house, honest and reliable, looking for a woman to find true love with. Brighton Box 455727

**OVER TO YOU**

Single white male, 44, 5ft11, dark hair and eyes, seeking LTR with a single black lady, enjoying walks, nights in, nights out and more. Box 447191

**OFFER ME YOUR LOVE**

Eeasygoing male, 45, looking or a bubbly female, 45-48, for romance and share the good things in life. Box 454628

**ROMANCE IS ALIVE**

40yr old male, 5ft6, GSOH, looking or a bubbly female, 45-48, for romance and share the good things in life. Box 451503

**HEAVEN ABOVE**

Italian man, 37, currently living in Maidstone, tall, very passionate and fun to be with, seeking a sensual woman for a LTR. Box 454418

**AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER**

Handsome, tall male, 38, 6ft4, looking for a young lady to slowly rediscover the finer things in life. Box 454805

**CHEEKY SOH**

Unconventional, independent, successful, fun guy, 39, hazel eyes, no ties, like motorbikes, holidays, theme parks, seeking a young, caring, uncomplicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first. Box 434345

**HAPPY GO LUCKY**

Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for love, for fun. Box 455764

**TRUSTWORTHY**

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build, I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 454567

**HAPPY GO LUCKY**

Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for love, for fun. Box 455764

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**REACH FOR THE HEIGHTS**

## PROPERTY NEWS

### Homeowners expect market recovery

CONSUMER confidence was nudged up marginally in July by expectations of recovery in the housing market and an end to the recession, Nationwide said.

Nationwide's Consumer Confidence Index rose to 60 in July, up from a revised 59 in June.

Spending confidence fell for the first time in a year, but British homeowners believe the value of their property will rise in the next six months.

Martin Gahbauer, Nationwide's chief economist, said consumers are cautious, but are not panicked by the recession.

"Consumers might have been reassured by reports that the housing market may be starting to recover, and manufacturing output is no longer falling as rapidly as it was a few months ago," Gahbauer said.

Around one in five of those polled expect the economy to worsen in the next six months, compared to 53 per cent at the start of 2009.

In a separate report, the British Retail Consortium revealed a slowdown in shop-price inflation, helping consumer purchasing power.

### Commercial sector sees rise in fortune

THE value of commercial property has risen for the first time since June 2007, according to property agents CB Richard Ellis.

The value of offices, retail space and warehouses has fallen by around 45 per cent since the onset of the credit crisis in 2007. The sector's demise has played a major role in the woes being endured by Britain's biggest banks.

But analysts say the 0.2 per cent rise recorded for July by the company is further evidence that the economy may be turning a corner.

A number of property companies and funds are now raising millions of pounds to target properties whose values have fallen sharply and this demand for assets has driven the rise in pricing.

David Wylie, head of economics and forecasting at the company, said: "This month's index results reveal the undoubtedly sea change in investor sentiment that has taken place."

"Although concerns remain over the near-term prospects for secondary assets with weaker covenants, the figures seem to confirm that investors have awoken to what is now widely being seen as a once-in-a-generation buying opportunity."



# Hot campaign to make Brits more house-proud

■ BY NICK AMES

ONE in five people are too embarrassed at the state of their home to admit visitors, according to a recent survey.

And worries over interior design are affecting a large number of people who have little confidence in their ability to make the best of their rooms.

Appliance brand, Hotpoint, has conducted national research into how people feel about their homes.

In the current economic climate, with people "improving, not moving", the company says it has got to the bottom of how homeowners really view their interior-design skills.

As a result, Hotpoint has launched a campaign with interior designer Kelly Hoppen to help Brits inject a bit of style into their homes.

According to the research, the way we use the rooms in our home is starting to change as our busy lifestyles evolve.

A spokesman for the study said: "The kitchen has now overtaken the dining room as the hub of family life. In fact, we now spend more than three times as many hours in there than any other room in the house other than the lounge – highlighting just how important the space is becoming to modern family life.

"One in 20 of us has even moved house to get our hands on a bigger kitchen."

Hotpoint's research has found that:

- 14 per cent of people have yet to feel a sense of home ownership about where they live
- 37 per cent of people questioned lack confidence when it comes to interior design
- 38 per cent of people like their home but don't feel it's stylish enough
- 26 per cent of people say that the economic climate has prevented them from



ANOTHER FINE MESS: Brits lack confidence in their interior-design abilities and are embarrassed about their homes

making the improvements their home needs, with over 16 per cent not moving house because of the downturn

Launching the Hotpoint Hot Style campaign, Kelly Hoppen said: "My kitchen is the heart of my home – my dining room is virtually redundant now as I entertain all my friends and family in my kitchen.

"I want to show that creating a lovely, stylish kitchen needn't be daunting or expensive. That's why I've teamed up with Hotpoint to help create some Hot Style in kitchens throughout the UK."

Lisa Curran, Hotpoint's communications manager, said: "Hotpoint has launched this campaign with Kelly Hoppen as we think it's really important that people feel proud about their homes.

"Kelly's tips show that interior design needn't be intimidating and can be done to suit all budgets. The findings from our research are really reflective of how family life is evolving; the fact that the dining room is being used less and less and that the kitchen is turning into more of a family room, highlights a move away from formality for us Brits."

# Conti-rental trend reaches 18-30s

EIGHTEEN- to 30-year-olds are more likely to rent than their parents according to new research by the Association of Residential Letting Agents.

A survey of over 1,800 people revealed that 31 per cent of 18- to 30-year-olds had rented three or four properties, while only 17.5 per cent of their older counterparts had rented a similar number at the same age.

A third of 18-30s who currently live in rented accommodation said they enjoy independence from property ties. A further 31.6 per cent enjoyed the flexibility to move around.

However, only eight per cent thought it was

not important to eventually own a property.

There were more men who had never paid rent for a property – 32.3 per cent had opted to stay in the family home – while 75 per cent of females were making their own way in the world and had either bought or were in rented accommodation.

Young females were keener to get on the property ladder with 45.2 per cent having bought before they turned 25, while only 32 per cent of men could claim the same. 21 per cent of 18 to 30s stated that they wanted to continue renting for the foreseeable future.

Ian Potter, operations manager of ARLA,

said: "The research reveals a generation that wants to be upwardly mobile and free from ties. Attitudes towards renting have changed in the UK and we're becoming more like our fellow Europeans, who rent rather than buy."

"This trend of being 'conti-rental' recognises that renting should no longer be perceived as a waste of money, but simply as an alternative lifestyle choice to being tied to property for the long-term."

"Today's graduates, more than ever, are looking for work that involves travel and opportunities to move around, renting allows them to operate more freely in a flexible job market."

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**CHERITON** £164,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03027

- 3 bedroom mid terraced
- Lounge/Diner
- DG and GCH

Miles and Barr Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £115,000 (one hundred and fifteen thousand pounds) for Flat C, 174 Sandgate road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2LQ.

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Miles and Barr Estate Agents 120 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2BW Tel 01303 255335 before exchange of contracts.



**DOVER** £112,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02899

- 2 Bed Terrace
- OSP
- No Forward Chain



**WEST END** £179,950

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03004

- Spacious 2 bed flat
- Private rear garden
- Cellar & no chain



**DOVER** £104,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03006

- Semi detached house
- Two double beds
- Double glazing and garden



**FOLKESTONE** £139,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02992

- New 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms
- No chain



**FOLKESTONE** £164,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02977

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Off road parking
- Rear garden, GCH and DG



**DOVER** £114,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03041

- Investors & first time buyers
- 1 bedroom terrace
- GFCH



**CHERITON** £219,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03010

- 3 bed detached
- Garage & driveway
- Private rear garden



**FOLKESTONE** £104,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02637

- 2 Bedroom top floor flat
- Lift in block, parking to rear
- Access to town, no chain



**WEST END** £104,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03009

- 2 bed apartment
- On edge of town centre
- No chain



**CHERITON** £179,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02098

- 3 bedroom flat
- Large rooms
- New kitchen & bathroom



**TEMPLE EWELL** £179,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02880

- Charming and Cosy cottage
- 2/3 beds
- Heart of the village



**BROADMEAD VILLAGE** £325,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02980

- 4 bedroom detached house
- 2 reception & 2 bathrooms
- Garage, no onward chain



**FOLKESTONE** £134,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03026

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Recently refurbished
- 60 FT rear garden



**WEST END** £114,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03038

- Superb one bed flat
- Kitchen/diner
- High standard / no chain



**FOLKESTONE** OIEO £89,995

**FOLKESTONE** HFP02306

- Lovely ground floor apartment
- Own garden approx 70ft
- Perfect first time buy



**WEST END** £114,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02946

- 2 bedroom apartment
- Off road parking
- No chain



**DOVER** £179,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02882

- 4 Bed house
- Self contained flat
- Original features !



**DOVER** £189,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02915

- 3 X apartments
- Currently rented @ £1360/pcm
- No chain



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**WEST END** £144,950

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02526

- 3 Bedrooms top floor flat
- Views over Grimston Gardens
- No chain, share of freehold



**FOLKESTONE** £140,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02944

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Superb condition
- Large garden



**SANDGATE ROAD** £104,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02940

- One bedroom apartment
- Purpose built block
- Rarely available



**FOLKESTONE** £149,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02724

- 3 Bedroom family home
- Lounge/diner, extended kitchen
- Double glazing, play area to loft

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**FOLKESTONE** £130,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02631

- One bedroom seafront apartment
- Superb sea front location
- Excellent order throughout

**SEA FRONT LOCATION** £179,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03013

- 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms & private garden
- No chain

**FOLKESTONE** £220,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02270

- Large apartment in good location
- Two beds/two reception rooms
- Study/own private rear garden

**ELVINGTON** £140,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02870

- Two bedrooms
- Garage & Parking
- No chain

**FOLKESTONE** £134,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02515

- 4 Bedroom family home
- 2 Receptions, modern kitchen
- Well presented, call to view

**DOVER** £119,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03020

- 2 bed terraced house
- 2 reception rooms
- Large rear garden

**TOWN CENTRE** £99,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02905

- One bed apartment
- Newly built
- No chain

**FOLKESTONE** £129,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02054

- Three bedroom terraced
- Fully renovated
- No chain

**EASTCLIFF** £79,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02082

- Studio flat
- Newly renovated
- No chain

**WEST END** £164,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02379

- 2 bed apartment
- Lots of features
- Shared garden and no chain

**DOVER** £114,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03034

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Superb decorative order
- Large rear garden

**HYTHE** £119,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02685

- 2 bedroom terraced
- DG / GCH / rear garden
- Off road parking

**FOLKESTONE** £147,500

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02903

- Close to train station
- Three bedrooms
- No onward chain

**THE BAYLE** £124,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02428

- 2 bed retirement home
- Lift
- No chain

**CHERITON** £99,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03001

- One bedroom apartment
- Recently refurbished
- No chain

**FOLKESTONE** £89,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02546

- One bedroom flat
- Fantastic views
- Excellent condition

**SANDGATE** £109,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02937

- One bed apartment
- Walking distance to beach
- Off road parking

**THE GATEWAY** £145,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02876

- Stunning Views
- Two bedrooms
- Keys ready

**THE LEAS** £310,000

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02671

- Metropole court, the leas
- 4 bedrooms, 2 receptions
- Spacious entrance hall

**WALDORF APARTMENTS** £164,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03049

- 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms
- Balcony and parking space

**CHERITON** £154,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02978

- 3 bedroom end terraced
- New fitted kitchen
- DG & GCH

**FOLKESTONE** £229,500

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02395

- Three garages
- Two bedrooms/conservatory
- Immaculate detached bungalow

**FOLKESTONE** £157,500

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02930

- Three bedroom semi
- Conservatory
- Garage & driveway

**FOLKESTONE** £154,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02983

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Superb order throughout
- Vacant possession

**WEAR BAY CRESCENT** £379,995

**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02956

- 6 bedroom detached home
- Sea views & balcony
- No chain



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**Dover £164,950**

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Lounge/diner. Gas central heating & double glazing. Bathroom. Shower room. Harbour and town views. Enclosed rear garden. Off-road parking. Viewing recommended.

Dover Office

01304 207099



**Hythe £399,995**

Location, location, location! This four bedroom detached home backs onto the Hythe Canal with rear garden. In and out drive and virtual tour available online.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



**Dover OIEO £125,000**

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Sitting room. Kitchen. Shower room. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Established front and rear gardens.

Dover Office

01304 207099



**Folkestone £157,995**

This is a spacious three bedroom property in Folkestone. Two reception rooms, bathroom and separate WC.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



**River OIEO £199,950**

Four bedroom extended house. Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, 4th Bedroom/Study. The first floor offers Bathroom/WC. Well established garden and parking.

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Dover Office

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**Folkestone £329,995**

Seven bedroom semi-detached family home. Three reception rooms. Two bathrooms. Popular residential area.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



**Whitfield £325,000**

Five bedroom individually built detached house with two reception rooms, en suite to master bedroom, fitted kitchen, gardens and garage. Viewing highly recommended.

Dover Office

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**Romney Marsh £134,995**

Top floor flat with sea views from lounge and kitchen. Two bedrooms, modern kitchen and bathroom, lounge with balcony, communal gardens, garage.

New Romney

01797 363194



**Lydd on Sea £210,000**

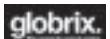
Three bedroom semi-detached house with sea views, two reception rooms, garden, off road parking, garage on bloc. No chain.

New Romney

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**DOVER**



**£80,000**

Investment opportunity. Two bedroom first floor purpose built flat offered for sale with tenant in place.

**AYLESHAM**



**£94,995**

Top floor maisonette in village location with two bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating and garage.

**DOVER**



**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £95,000**

Two bedroom house with double glazing, gas central heating and garden. Ideal first home or investment.

**DOVER**



**£99,995**

Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal first purchase.

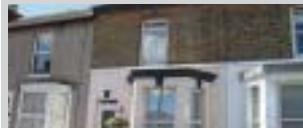
**EYTHORNE**



**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £120,000**

Three bedroom semi detached house with two reception rooms. In need of modernisation.

**DOVER**



**£120,000**

Three bedroom terrace house with two receptions, double glazing, gas central heating and rear garden. No chain.

**DOVER**



**£129,995**

Three bedroom terrace house with two reception areas, double glazing, gas heating, rear garden.

**AYLESHAM**



**£134,995**

Two bed semi detached bungalow with two receptions, double glazing, gas central heating and off road parking.

**DOVER**



**£141,995**

Three bedroom family home in sought after location. Viewing highly recommended.

**DOVER**



**£145,000**

Two bedroom ground floor apartment in sought after sea front development. No chain.

**ST. MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE**



**£165,000**

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House. Three Receptions. Garage and Driveway. No Onward Chain.

**SHEPHERDSWELL**



**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £200,000**

Two bedroom detached bungalow in village location with two reception room, garage and gardens.

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**FOLKESTONE**



**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £97,000**

Refurbished retirement apartment. Bed, lounge, fitted kitchen and bathroom/WC, laundry room & guest room facilities.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£99,500**

Refurbished garden flat with two sunny courtyards. Bed, reception rm, open plan kitchen, bathroom, outside store.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£129,950**

This garden flat lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, utility, two beds & bathroom. Gas central heating. D. glazing.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£145,000**

Three storey house comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms, four bedrooms and separate WC.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£149,950**

Three bedroom ground floor flat. Spacious well planned accommodation including cloakroom & dressing room.

**HYTHE**



**£152,500**

Two bedroom cottage with two receptions, working fireplace, double glazing, gas central heating & garden.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£159,995**

A four storey house comprising: 4/5 beds, 1/2 receptions, kitchen/diner, cloakroom & bathroom/WC.

**CHERITON**



**£164,950**

A three bedroom family home with lounge diner, part double glazing, central heating and rear garden.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£174,950**

Three bedroom family home in the sought after Cheriton area. Offered with no chain. Viewing recommended.

**LYMPNE**



**£179,950**

Two bedroom detached bungalow with drive, garage, gas central heating, part double glazed and gardens.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£295,000**

Bay fronted semi-detached house refurbished & modernised. Over four floors, gas central heating and parking.

**CAPEL-LE-FERNE**



**£299,000**

Bungalow set in attractive established gardens. New soffits and guttering, repointed, rewired, gas central heating.

**WEST HYTHE**



**£499,950**

Five beds, two receptions, kitchen, two bathrooms, garage, paddocks approx 1.5 acres, two stables, tack room.

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Wait for sighting of the new Yeti is almost over

SKODA launches its fifth model line on September 17, when the Yeti crossover arrives, priced from £13,750 with air-con as standard.

With four trim levels and a 4x4 option though, you can pay as much as £22,120 for this rugged yet stylish newcomer.

Realistically though, most people will go for level two or 'Yeti S' spec from £14,250, the start point for alloys as standard to complement the neat body design. The two or four-wheel drive and DSG options also come into play.



### Golf rules apply to the all-new VW Polo

VOLKSWAGEN has created an all-new Polo supermini using striking design language already seen on the latest Golf and Scirocco Coupe.

Priced from £10,035 for the five-door model – the three-door arrives in December – order books are already open and deliveries start in October.

Apart from the elegant styling, the other main talking point on this 5th generation car is ESP (electronic stabilisation programme) as standard for enhanced safety and driving response.

Though bigger than last time, the car is lighter for better economy and emissions.



### Superlighting way for a future MX-5

MAZDA has unveiled a stunning Superlight MX-5 concept.

Billed as a show car to highlight lightweight technology and underline the roadster's 20-years on the market, comments and reaction will surely be taken into account for a next generation car.

It would be nice, for instance, if the Superlight's stylish headrest nacelles appear on a future version of the world's best-selling two-seat sports car.

The current MX has just had a facelift that sharpens the styling without altering curvaceous lines carried over through three generations.



**MADE IN INDIA:** The new Suzuki Alto lacks refinement but is economical, spacious and a good deal cheaper alternative for people looking to cut their motoring budget

# Alto misses high notes but pricing is low-key

## ROAD TEST SUZUKI ALTO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

#### Driving appeal



#### Image



#### Space



#### Value



#### Running costs



#### Reliability



#### Green rating



auto option though – you'll need to hoist a spinnaker and run before the wind to hit 60mph in less than 17 seconds – but £600 extra for the auto is a reasonable premium if you must have an easy-driving city runabout.

I like the car's wheel-at-each-corner design, which delivers the best cabin space possible and a ride with less fore and aft pitching.

The car is roomy for four with a reasonable boot and decent stowage – the big dashboard bin and centre console are particularly useful – and the high-mounted audio controls are just a span from the left hand on the wheel.

Suzuki has weighted the pliancy of the ride nicely against grip and handling. It was never intended to be a fireball, but the Alto can be piloted aggressively – albeit noisily – when required and the lack of cornering sag is impressive.

Running costs should be ridiculously low with a potential for averaging 60mpg and insurance groupings of 1-2, though the car misses out narrowly on escaping road tax of £35/year.

Our test car was the SZ4 flagship (£7,960), but the various extras don't do much to justify a price tag that brings impressive rivals into play.

The sub-£7,000 SZ2 might be the better bet for those keen to cut their motoring budget.



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# USED CAR ROUND-UP:

## OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

### FAMILY HATCHBACKS

WANT to downsize yet still run a car that does it all? Start shopping for a family hatchback; it seats five, can be crammed like a small van and represents a good balance of space, flexibility and economy... providing you don't go for the 'hot hatch' version. Competition is tough in this sector too, so there are few duds to beware of. Our trio here are affordable and should each give excellent service even if they offer differing propositions on street credibility – the Corolla was axed primarily for its dull image.

#### FORD FOCUS



BRITAIN'S favourite car. Or is it? Some say it's No1 through Ford's formidable market share. Fair point, but the Focus is also great to drive, practical, well-made and blessed with good engines. For secondhand buyers there is a fantastic choice of power – including the rapid ST-trim levels and body styles: a smart saloon and estate plus a coupe convertible. The car's popularity and ordinary looks are a weakness though and reason enough for some buyers to look elsewhere.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

#### TOYOTA COROLLA



TOYOTA chopped the Corolla in 2007 in favour of the Auris, but the latter has all the same virtues and disadvantages. More than any other model, the Corolla made Toyota the world's No1 carmaker – it was affordable and durable, but a little dull. There is plenty of engine and body choice though and even racy versions, though the car pretty much does what it says on the tin. Corolla prices have eased too with its perception as a 'deleted' model.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

#### MAZDA3



MAZDA'S link with Ford means that a lot of Focus resided beneath the skin of the first and newly-replaced Mazda3 and that means neat handling. But the Mazda stands out visually from its ubiquitous half-sister, a fact not lost on used car buyers looking for something distinctive. The '3' is mostly found as a capacious hatchback, but there is also a sporty saloon. Engines are lively, in line with Mazda's sporty 'Zoom-Zoom' image – look out for the MPS hot hatch.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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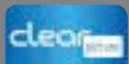


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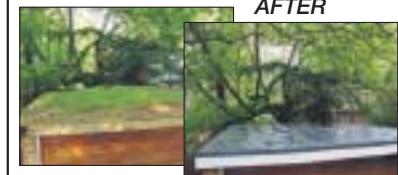
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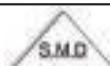
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Pictures: ADY KERRY  
DOWN AND OUT: Rob Key not picked to play Australia

## Selectors by-pass Key for crucial fifth Test

KENT'S Rob Key has once again been overlooked by the England selectors after he was left out of the squad for the crucial fifth Test against Australia.

The Kent captain was believed to be in line to replace the out-of-form Ravi Bopara for the final Ashes Test that starts at the Oval tomorrow. While ex-players and pundits queued up to insist Key was the man to fill the spot after a return to form for his county, the England selectors decided to take a bigger gamble and pick the uncapped Jonathan Trott.

The Warwickshire batsman will bat at

### CRICKET

number four with the England selector's 'favourite', Ian Bell, assuming the troubled number three berth in the batting line-up.

While Key will be no doubt disappointed in not being selected for the game, he refused to blame the speculation during the course of the week on his side's poor display at Edgbaston on Twenty20 finals day.

"I have not had a moment to catch my breath really," he said. "We came into that game on the back of three back-to-back

championship games and after playing so badly against Middlesex we had to make sure we got a win in the championship, so I was keeping an eye on the press, but Sunday was the first day I have had off in quite a while so it gave the chance to look back at a hectic week."

What's perhaps more surprising is the fact off-spinner James Tredwell has failed to be talked about in terms of a call-up. He out bowled Monty Panesar in the championship win against Northants last week with figures of 10 for 100, compared to Panesar's 2 for 127.

## Tredwell spins Kent to win at Northants

JAMES Tredwell took his 50th first-class wicket of the season as Kent wrapped up a 238-run win against Northamptonshire to go 17 points clear at the top of Division Two in the County Championship.

The Kent off-spinner claimed match figures of 10 for 100 after taking five wickets in both innings, going on to register his 57th first-class wicket of the season.

Kent scored 244 in their first innings with Key top scoring with 90 before Tredwell claimed 5 for 68 to bowl Northants out for 218.

Martin van Jaarsveld then scored an unbeaten 100 with Geraint Jones hitting 93, as Kent declared on 302 for 5. Tredwell then spun Kent to victory on the final day with figures of 5 for 32 as Northants were bowled out for 90.

Kent return to championship action next Friday with the visit of Surrey to Canterbury.



IN-FORM: James Tredwell took 10-wicket haul

## St Lawrence hosts Ponting's Aussies

WHILE the Spittires were busy with Twenty20 finals day, the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury played host to the Australian cricket team.

The Aussies put their final preparations together for the final Test with England at the Oval tomorrow, with a two-day game against the England Lions at Canterbury. Kent were due to play the Australian tourists but their involvement in finals day meant the fixture was taken up by the Lions.

It was the chance for Kent fans to see Aussie skipper Ricky Ponting, who scored 45 on the opening day, up close. For a report from the game, visit our website.



ALL IN VAIN: Darren Stevens (left) played aggressively for the Spittires but it was in vain as Marcus Trescothick (right) orchestrated a seven-wicket win for the Somerset Sabres



## Trescothick gives Spittires a Twenty20 masterclass

A BELOW par performance from the Kent Spittires resulted in them missing out on a third straight Twenty20 Cup final and with it the potential riches of the Champions League.

A seven-wicket defeat in the semi-final, orchestrated by Somerset Sabres' former England opener Marcus Trescothick, on Saturday saw the Spittires exit the competition with a whimper. It also meant the club missed out on the chance to compete for £3.6 million in the inaugural Champions League against the best Twenty20 sides from the likes of Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, at the event staged in India during October.

The loss of all-rounder Ryan McLaren was the first blow of the afternoon as the South African failed to shake off a side strain picked up in a championship game earlier in the

### CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

month. It left skipper Rob Key with a decision to play either fast bowler Amjad Khan or left-arm spinner Rob Ferley. The Kent captain opted for the pace and experience of Khan, but the selection backfired when the England quick bowler conceded 16 runs in his opening over.

It was the worst possible start for the Spittires who had earlier scored a competitive 145 for 5, thanks largely to a typically aggressive 77 in 51 balls from Darren Stevens. The Spittires had slumped to 32 for 3 from their opening six overs, but Stevens clawed back the impetus with a fine knock that included taking 20 from the final over of the innings.

His efforts proved to be in vain, however, as Trescothick took a liking to the Kent attack,

which included overseas fast bowler Wayne Parnell. The Somerset opener got the innings off to a flier, smashing 56 from just 32 balls to set up a comfortable win for the men from Taunton, who galloped home with seven balls to spare.

The Sabres scored 71 for 0 from the first six overs compared to Kent's 32 for 3 and that, according to Key, was the big difference between the two sides.

"You have got to start well and be right on the money and we weren't," he said. "We conceded 16 off the first over and we probably bowled a bit too wide and bit too full. It was the story of the first six really, we didn't bat well enough in the first six, but I think with 145 if we had a decent bowling show it might have been different."

"It is not an easy wicket to bat on. They bowled full and straight and did it, while we bowled full and wide and from that stage we were always clawing it back."

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**ON TARGET:** Adam Birchall scored a brace as Dover continued their promising start to the season with an excellent win over Dorchester Town at Crabble on Saturday

# Southall experience key to Whites' start, says Hess

## FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

### Dover Athletic 4

Birchall 15, 89, Southall 76, Welford 90



### Dorchester Town 1

Gleeson 39



DOVER boss Andy Hessianhaler pointed to the experience of Nicky Southall for his side's good start to the season.

The Whites made it seven points out of a possible nine at the weekend after making easy work of Dorchester Town at Crabble.

After a frenetic start, Dover should have taken the lead inside the first minute. A long ball flicked on by Shaun Welford found Adam Birchall in the area, but his shot was well saved by Dorchester goalkeeper Ryan Northmore.

Hessianhaler's side piled on the pressure and had two chances cleared off the line by the scrambling Dorchester defence.

The first saw Sammy Moore's shot cleared away by Gary Bowles which was followed by Welford's far post effort clawed out by Northmore.

However, the next attack a minute later saw Dover finally break the deadlock. Birchall used his pace to split the Dorchester defence before firing the ball beyond Northmore for his second goal in as many games.

The home side's dominance continued with two further efforts cleared off the line by the Dorchester defence on the half hour from Lee Browning and Birchall.

The Whites were forced to rue their missed opportunities seven minutes before the break, as Dorchester scored an equaliser against the run of play. The Dover defence failed to clear a cross into the area, which Jamie Gleeson poked into the net.

In the second half the visitors came close to taking the lead just after the hour when Bowles shot wide from six yards with just goalkeeper Lee Hook to beat.

With Dover finding it difficult to break down the Dorchester defence, the home side were handed a lifeline with a free-kick on the edge of the area with 14 minutes remaining. Southall stepped up and fired the ball into the net to the delight of the Dover supporters.

### Dover Athletic



Subs used: Gore (Wallis 80), Walder (Moore 80), Hughes (Browning 67)

Two quick-fire goals from Birchall and Welford gave the scoreline a more emphatic look, with the victory stretching Dover's unbeaten start to the season to three games.

A delighted Hessianhaler said after the game: "Nicky's goal didn't surprise me, he has the quality to do something special with free-kicks and he was man-of-the-match."

"His experience has been key and it has shone through in the first three games, which has pleased me."

"Seven points out of a possible nine is a great start to the season and we are going to be up there towards the top of the league, but there is still a long way to go."

Dover were at Chelmsford on Monday night. For a full report visit [www.yourdover.co.uk](http://www.yourdover.co.uk).

## CRICKET ROUND-UP



**GIFT:** Sandwich's tail battled to avoid defeat

### Sandwich are in a pickle after losing draw at Canterbury

SANDWICH Town were outplayed but hung on to deny Canterbury a victory in a crunch relegation clash in the Premier Division on Saturday.

Matthew van Poppel took 2 for 19 as Canterbury were restricted to 185 for 7 at Polo Farm. Chasing a victory, which would have put clear daylight between themselves and the bottom two, Town lost Craig Snell (1) and Stuart Smith (0) early on.

David Scoggins (32) was one of only three batsmen to reach double figures and Sandwich had to dig in to avoid a costly defeat. Gavin Lawrence and Jack Bradley managed to see out the allocation, but it left Sandwich just one point above the drop zone with three games left.

Folkestone got the victory they needed to stay clear of trouble at the bottom as their two-wicket win at Tenterden saw them find the comfort of mid-table.

Thomas Cullen (4 for 36) helped knock over the home side for just 147 to put Folkestone in charge. The visitors had Essex all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate to thank for pulling them out of a tricky situation. The Netherlands international hit 60 as Folkestone scraped home with two wickets to spare.

Sibton Park sealed their promotion from Division Two in quick fashion as they beat Broadstairs by five wickets at Lyminge. Andy Allon and Trevor Lewis took three wickets apiece as the visitors were all out for just 72.

The hosts' top order were all dismissed cheaply to briefly give Broadstairs hope of an unlikely victory, but Daniel Lodge and Ben Carberry both hit 21 to see Sibton Park home in the 22nd over.

Walmer occupy a place in the Division Four relegation zone following a 60-run defeat to Rodmersham, while Betteshanger Colliery Welfare suffered a potentially crippling blow to their Division Five promotion hopes with a 23-run loss to Chislehurst.

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Gills boss talks about dream clash with Blackburn in the Carling Cup



**STALEMATE:** Dave Cory (right) came closest to scoring a goal on his Folkestone debut but just missed out

## FOOTBALL

### Folkestone 0 Dulwich Hamlet 0

FOLKESTONE Invicta enjoyed the best of a lively game but had to settle for a share of the points in their opening fixture of the season.

Missing skipper Jimmy Dryden, ruled out for at least another week with a knee injury, the Seasiders lacked a killer touch in front of goal.

Darren Smith and new signing Dave Cory had the best chances around the hour mark, but both lacked composure. Despite the draw Invicta boss Neil Cugley, whose side visit Eastbourne Town this evening, was content with the performance.

He said: "For a 0-0 I thought it was quite entertaining. Whoever took their chance would have won. I think we had the best

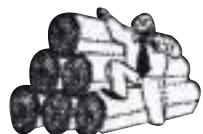
chances and I'm disappointed we couldn't put one away, but it'll come."

Elsewhere, both Deal Town and Hythe Town kept up their good start to the season with wins in the FA Cup's extra preliminary round.

Deal looked to be heading for a replay against Arundel after two Jason Brazier strikes were cancelled out by the visitors. Scott Holden netted the winner six minutes from time to see Derek Hares' side safely through to the next round.

Hythe also left it late against Whitehawk. Dave Cook's 30-yard free-kick put Scott Porter's side in front at the break, but after the hosts equalised it was left to Kieran Byrne to notch his third goal in two games with an 83rd-minute winner.

Deal visit Herne Bay this evening, while Hythe are next in action on Saturday against Fisher.



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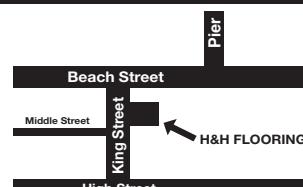


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Natalie, 18

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Scott, 18

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Daniel, 17

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Abbeygail, 18

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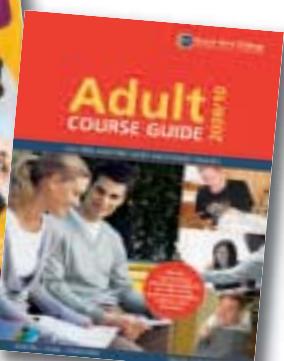
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